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LD171430 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Jamming Accusation, Shipping Attacks—An Iranian WIH spokesman cited by Tehran radio accused the U.S. fleet in the Gulf of jamming the Iranian coastal radar system during recent Iraqi air raids on shipping. This "aggressive" move is tantamount to U.S. participation in the war against Iran, the spokesman claimed. As for the effects of the alleged jamming, the radio acknowledged that a Cypriot ship was damaged in the Iraqi air attacks, but cited the WIH spokesman as saying that Iranian radar personnel are now able to "neutralize" the U.S. "electronic warfare" efforts.

The Iranian allegations followed Iraq's announcement over Voice of the Masses radio that its warplanes hit two more maritime targets 16 December, one of them "very large." INA subsequently cited Lloyds reports that the targets were an Iranian oil tanker and a Cypriot cargo ship. The latter was hit for the second time, having been the target of a missile in Iraq's raid the previous night, according to Voice of the Masses.

In the wake of the Iraqi raids, Iranian gunboats attacked a Maldivian-flagged cargo vessel in the southern Gulf 17 December, INA reported. The vessel, which was carrying cargo from a Saudi port, was attacked twice, first off Al-Shariqah and again south of Abu Musa Island. Iranian gunboats also fired missiles at a Greek tanker near the Strait of Hormuz the previous morning, causing a fire but no injuries, Athens radio announced. A REUTER report on the attack by "a gunboat" on a Greek ship was mentioned by Tehran radio.

Soviet Union and Iraq—At a Baghdad press conference reported by WAKH, Soviet special envoy Mikhail Sytenko dismissed reports of tension in Soviet-Iraqi relations and stressed the USSR's continued backing and support for Iraq in all fields, including the promotion of its defensive capability. He reaffirmed the USSR's call for further work to implement Security Council Resolution 598, explaining that the Soviet Union does not want an "unbalanced and hasty" resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran. Sytenko subsequently held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who affirmed that both superpowers have a great responsibility in promoting efforts to implement Resolution 598, Baghdad radio noted. In Amman, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan told the JORDAN TIMES that Iraq regards any attempt to modify 598 as "an encroachment" on its national interests, and he confirmed that Iraq has officially conveyed its displeasure with the Soviet position in this regard. However, Iraq does not doubt Moscow's commitment to the resolution or its desire to stop the war, he said.

Iran Internal Affairs

The interior minister told Tehran radio that Majlis elections are set for 8 April 1988, and he noted that top government officials who wish to stand must resign their posts before registering.

In another development, the radio reported that Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani held talks with Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in Qom.

Israel

Disturbances—A Gaza resident died and three others were hospitalized after being shot by the IDF during disturbances 16 December, Jerusalem radio reported. The man who died had stabbed an Israeli soldier in Rafah. The radio also reported further riots or disturbances in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem 17 December. Nevertheless, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir contended that "tempers in the territories are gradually calming down," the radio said, and a senior IDF source asserted that the unrest is "gradually subsiding."

KGB Story—The Arab lobby in the United States is behind a recent UPI story about KGB penetration of Mossad, according to Israeli political sources cited by HA'ARETZ. The UPI report stated that the USSR has obtained information that reached Israel from Jonathan Pollard, indicating that a KGB agent has infiltrated Mossad, the paper noted.

Lebanon

IDF in Action—The IDF killed six "terrorists" who attacked an SLA post northwest of Hasbayya early 17 December, IDF radio reported. Beirut radio confirmed that clashes were continuing between Lebanese resistance fighters and Israeli troops in the south. The Israelis killed or wounded three Hizballah fighters in a 16 December clash, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. An IDF soldier was wounded by a roadside bomb explosion in Lebanon that day, IDF radio disclosed.

Syrian Arrests—Syrian troops arrested 80 inhabitants in northern villages after another Syrian soldier was killed, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Jordan

"Brutality, repression, deportation, and collective punishment" are ineffective methods that cannot undermine the will for freedom among Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, King Husayn asserted in an address broadcast by Amman radio. Speaking at the annual officer graduation ceremonies, the king said that Israeli colonization policy contradicts the movement of history, and he urged the Israelis to "wake up in the age of liberty" and realize that geographic lines can no longer be drawn by force. The "aggressive policies" of both

Israel and Iran are bringing "disasters and instability" to the region, Husayn said, contrasting this with the spirit of dialogue and coexistence displayed by the superpowers, whose INF agreement he welcomed "warmly and enthusiastically." The king expressed hope that the UN Security Council permanent member states will display the same spirit in dealing with Middle East conflicts.

Egypt

At the end of his visit to Kuwait, Defense Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah told KUNA that Egypt is ready to come to the defense of "any Arab state subjected to aggression and lacking defense capabilities." Abu Ghazalah also denied speculation that Egypt and Jordan plan to establish a joint military command, and he expressed concern over the recent defense agreement between the United States and Israel.

Libya

Accusations Against U.S.—The U.S. 6th Fleet carried out "provocations" in the form of target practice and "electronic warfare" 13 and 14 December, possibly in preparation for "some Israeli action" or to "disturb" the pan-Arab conference of opposition parties, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi charged in a banquet speech carried by Tripoli television. The delegates' presence in Libya, "the base of Arab opposition," is a "challenge" to the United States and Israel, whose governments have vowed to "deal a blow" to active supporters of the Palestinian resistance, Al-Qadhdhafi declared. The Libyan leader called on the oppositionists to "confirm" that his country is not isolated and urged them to make efforts to achieve Arab unity and to promote an "internationalist struggle" against imperialism.

Relations With Sudan—In a telephone call to Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani, Al-Qadhdhafi reiterated Libya's support for Sudan in its efforts to confront "dangers and conspiracies," SUNA reported.

Sudan

In the Yom area, 95 "outlaws" were killed and several camps "completely destroyed" in operations carried out by government forces, a military statement broadcast by Omdurman radio announced. The statement also noted that military operations in the Bahr al-Ghazal region are continuing.

Three Ethiopians were among those captured when government soldiers attacked a camp in the Shali area, a military commander told SUNA 17 December, adding that 18 "outlaws" were killed.

The London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT claimed that the Sudanese Government and SPLA leader John Garang recently signed an agreement which includes stipulations on the bases for a dialogue to settle the issue of the south and on the free passage of relief convoys. According to "reliable diplomatic sources," the government delegation to the 5-day secret meeting in London was headed by the Sudanese minister of state for defense.

PDRY-YAR

A PDRY military delegation visited Sanaa for talks on preventing further "skirmishes" such as "recently" occurred along the border, an "informed source" told the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD. The source disclosed that the two sides also discussed the issue of "armed activity" by supporters of former PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and noted that the PDRY had arrested a group trying to "infiltrate" Aden.

Tunisia

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali commuted the death sentence handed down on Ali Laridi to "hard labor for life," Tunis radio reported. Laridi, who was a defendant in an Islamic Tendency Movement case, had recently had his condemnation upheld by the now defunct State Security Court.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Sources Deny U.S. Hostages Held

NC161307 Paris AFP in English 1255 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Dec 16 (AFP)—Palestinian demonstrators claimed Wednesday they were holding two U.S. journalists and threatened to kill them if Israeli soldiers attacked the Al-Shifa' hospital in the Gaza Strip, but the PALESTINE PRESS SERVICE (PPS) denied the claim.

"It is a provocation aimed at discrediting the demonstrations underway in Gaza and in the West Bank," the PPS said. Other Palestinian sources also discounted the validity of the hostage claim. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sends Messages to French Leaders

JN152021 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1811 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] In two urgent messages sent yesterday to French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] appealed to France to intervene immediately and urgently by putting pressure on the Zionist occupation authorities to stop their massacre of our Palestinian people in the occupied land—a massacre that has so far killed or wounded 400 Palestinian citizens.

PFLP's Habash on West Bank, Ties With Syria

JN161621 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1218 GMT 16 Dec 87

["Text" of interview with PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash by Louis Faris in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Faris] Dr George Habash, the situation in the occupied territories is of great concern to all quarters. In your opinion, what is really happening there, given that all outcomes are possible?

[Habash] First of all, the current events in the occupied territories are natural. There is an occupation there. Therefore, it is only natural for our people there to confront such an occupation. Those who closely follow events in the occupied territories know that our people's confrontation did not just start this past week. If we take this year, for example, we find that our people confronted the occupation on Land Day and demonstrated and expressed their happiness on the occasion of the convocation of the unity PNC. They also confronted the occupation on 15 May, on 5 June, on the occasion of the 2 November Balfour Declaration, and on 29 November, the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Thus, we find ourselves living a continuous struggle. This is the natural thing. We expect this confrontation to continue. Our Palestinian people cannot but continuously confront the occupation. This heroic people can never submit to Israeli measures or to Israeli occupation, no matter how harsh the Israeli measures of oppression and no matter how much Israel threatens to use the iron fist policy, which it is actually carrying out. Our people's struggle against the occupation will continue until the occupation is terminated and the Palestinian people are granted the right to self-determination.

From this premise, I appeal to all the Palestinian masses, inside and outside the occupied territories, to all the Arab national liberation movements without exception, to international institutions and international public opinion, and to the progressive and socialist forces in the world to support our people so that they may regain their natural and legitimate right to independence, to an end to occupation, and to self-determination.

[Faris] Dr George Habash, the other topical issue now is that of Palestinian-Syrian relations. In light of the recent exchange of memorandums between the PLO and the Syrian leaders, what is the scope of the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation or rapprochement?

[Habash] It greatly pains me that this massive upheaval by our people in the occupied territories takes place while Syrian-PLO relations are still not mended. Every Palestinian citizen, every patriot, is impatiently awaiting the resumption of the natural relations of alliance between Syria and the PLO. This is in the interest of the Palestinian revolution and Syria as well. When the alliance existed between Syria and the PLO, there was a country which united all the Arab national forces. The loss of such a country has greatly harmed the PLO and Syria. Therefore, it is necessary to work to restore this alliance. We will continue to work until this alliance is once again established.

I have great hope in the wisdom of the Syrian command and of President al-Asad in particular. We must tackle this issue, particularly under the present political circumstances. I believe that the resumption of relations of solidarity and alliance between the PLO and Syria will be the best blow that can now be dealt to the Israeli occupation and the best support for our masses' upheaval in the occupied territories. These masses have every right to struggle for the resumption of alliance relations between Syria and the PLO.

The letters that were exchanged are positive. The Syrian command's reaction is positive with respect to the way in which the PLO command has tackled this issue and with respect to the memorandums it submitted. The time has come to carry out the next step. In my opinion, the next step does not consist of an exchange of further memorandums but the arrival of a ranking PLO delegation to

begin consultations immediately so that we may regain this alliance, without which it will be difficult to confront Israel and its schemes in the region.

[Faris] Dr George Habash, thank you

2 Israeli Vehicles Attacked in West Bank

JN152007 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1811 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Statement issued by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Stemming from our great Palestinian people's determination to continue resisting and confronting the occupation and to support our valiant people's uprising, which continues throughout the occupied homeland for the 7th consecutive day, our heroes operating inside the occupied homeland carried out two daring operations against two military vehicles in the West Bank last night as follows:

1. One of our combat groups detonated a remote-controlled bomb under a large military truck in the settlement of Qiryat Gat near Ramallah. The explosion damaged the truck, set it ablaze, and killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers. The occupation authorities immediately brought in a large number of Zionist Army and police forces. They cordoned off the area, launched large-scale search operations, and detained scores of Palestinian citizens. Our combat group returned safely to base.

2. Our heroic revolutionaries used incendiary bombs to attack a Zionist military vehicle while it was passing through the settlement of (Qarn Homoron), northwest of the West Bank. The attack set the vehicle ablaze and injured a number of enemy soldiers inside it. The Zionist enemy forces which arrived at the scene of the operation carried out large-scale search operations that included many areas in the vicinity of the attack. Our revolutionaries returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

Algeria

Report on Bendjedid's State of Nation Speech

LD151849 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The most important event at the autumn session of the National People's Assembly was the important speech about the state of the nation, which was delivered by President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party. [passage omitted]

Our colleague Lahcene Chaiche attended this special session and has returned with a report which he now presents live from the studio:

[Chaiche] Present circumstances require that working methods be brought up to date so that the spirit of initiative will not be killed. This was one of the important points in the speech which President Chadli Bendjedid delivered on the state of the nation.

The president said that the international economic crisis has given us more determination to carry on with our reforms and that these reforms are not limited to a specific field but will touch all social and economic spheres. Implementing these reforms will enable us to prepare the basic conditions for linking our socialist choices with effectiveness. In this respect, his excellency the president focussed on effectiveness in management. [passage omitted]

The reforms in the agricultural sector are an urgent necessity and their prospects are promising.

[Begin Bendjedid recording] The changes taking place in the agricultural sector clearly define the responsibility of the producers, support their rights, and change their situation from being merely hired workers to becoming real producers who benefit from inalienable rights and who practice their full responsibilities in exploiting the land without bureaucratic interference. This requires that the technical and economic support structures be reorganized. It will change their mission and their methods of intervention in accordance with the requirements of effective decentralization in order to improve the consolidation of services and in order to meet the needs of agricultural producers. Within this framework, the state will exercise the prerogatives of orientation and control, follow up on the development policy, and support the national potential in agricultural production by focusing on the following actions:

Preparing a (?party) policy and implementing it in order to reconcile the interests of agricultural producers with the national requirements for an increase in the production of strategic food products.

Planning a policy for rural sector organization and its development, and implementing this policy.

Reconditioning irrigation areas and expanding them.

Supporting land reclamation and regulating investment in the golden pastures. [end recording]

[Chaiche] His excellency the president focused on combatting shortages, those who impair the value of productive work, parasitic actions, and incomes obtained without work. He said the reforms will extend to the cultural and educational fields and it is expected that a large-scale action will be launched which will include all creative people. Their work will be compatible with our aspirations. It is also expected that the standards of educational institutions will conform with that of production.

His excellency stressed that the Arabic language is a fundamental factor in Algerian society and that it must be the language of economic life, scientific production, and artistic creation.

His excellency the president said that centralization and bureaucracy were responsible for insufficient workers' contributions to project ideas, and that some of our problems stem from this. We should also not exaggerate the competence of foreign cadres, many of whom use our country for experiments.

He also drew attention to the fact that the exodus from rural areas has not only stopped, but a move in the opposite direction has started to take place. He thanked local authorities for their efforts in this context.

His excellency called on mass organizations to accelerate the development of their working methods in order to enhance the economy. He said that the kind of economic situation which we are aiming for annoys only those who prefer stagnation and those who have benefits and interests under stagnation.

Concerning foreign policy, President Chadli Bendjedid said that consolidating the Arab Maghreb is a fundamental choice and a firm aspiration in the conscience of the Algerian people. It is the basis of the consultations which we are holding in the region. The time has come for us to take other steps so that the idea of the great Arab Maghreb will enter a decisive stage.

He also called for strengthening the achievements of the treaty on fraternity and cooperation in order to expand them after consultations on the basis of a common conception. His excellency also said that present developments help us to go further faster in building Maghrebian unity. He said there is a positive development between Tunisia and Libya and this is a part of this orientation.

His excellency indicated that it is painful that the Western Sahara conflict continues and remains an obstacle to Maghreb unity. Algeria, he said, has spared no efforts to

solve this conflict and has worked consistently with the OAU and the United Nations. Algeria affirms its steadfast adherence to free self-determination without military intervention.

As far as the situation in the Middle East is concerned, his excellency said that the Palestinian National Council in Algeria continues its efforts to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy. At the Amman summit, Algeria presented a fraternal and fundamental contribution to clear the Arab atmosphere. We hope that this will be a new starting point in the life of the Arab nation which will lead to the unfication of views, stands, and aims.

With regard to the Gulf conflict, his excellency noted that Algeria expressed its sorrow when the conflict started and continues to express its concern in view of the danger of the conflict spreading to all the Gulf regions. He said that Algeria has called for a political solution to this crisis.

President Chadli Bendjedid also said in his speech: We continue the struggle and the fruitful cooperation together with the African countries and we believe that the OAU is an outlet for this cooperation. The OAU has undertaken to study the border conflict between Libya and Chad in order to solve it by political means apart from foreign invervention.

As far as Asia is concerned, his excellency said that our relations are developing rapidly with the Asian countries every day. These countries support us in facing our challenges. We share their aspirations, hopes, and concerns.

Egypt

Comoran President Concludes Visit 17 Dec

NC170849 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, president of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning following a 4-day visit during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

His excellency was accorded an official farewell ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah. He was seen off by President Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Dr Ahmad Salamah, minister for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs; and Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo.

President Mubarak and President Abderemane signed a joint communique on the latter's visit to Egypt at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah this morning.

Communique Issued on Visit

NC171222 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Ahmed Abdallah Abderename of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros have affirmed their support for the Palestinian people's national rights, particularly their right to self-determination. They also emphasized that convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East provides the best opportunity to attain a peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East crisis.

In a joint communique issued today at the conclusion of the Comoran president's visit to Egypt, the two presidents urged that UN Security Council Resolution 598 regarding the Iraq-Iran war be implemented.

Presidents Mubarak and Abdallah Abderemane condemned the policy of apartheid and demanded the immediate and unconditional implementation of Resolution 435 concerning Namibia's independence.

The two presidents also urged the immediate implementation of UN, OAU, and Nonaligned Movement resolutions pertaining to the issue of the Comoran Island of Mayotte.

The communique expressed support for the treaty on the removal of intermediate nuclear missiles and described it as a beginning of the process of disarmament.

In addition, the joint communique expressed profound concern over the issue of African debts and stressed the need to make the necessary efforts to implement the final statement of the OAU summit. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives ICO's Pirzada 17 Dec

NC170857 Cairo MENA in Arabic 081º GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada at the Presidential Palace this morning. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also attended the meeting.

Pirzada on 'Fruitful' Talks

NC171135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada has stated that his talks with President Husni Mubarak today dealt with various issues facing the Islamic world. They focused particularly on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the Middle East, the Gulf war, the Afghan problem, and South Africa.

In a statement after his meeting with President Mubarak, the ICO secretary general described the talks as extremely fruitful. He affirmed there was an identity of views on all the topics discussed. He pointed out President Mubarak had voiced his full support for the ICO.

Pirzada went on to say he had offered his condolences to President Mubarak on the tragic incident that claimed the lives of many school children.

Responding to journalists' questions, the ICO secretary general said he will hold contacts and consultations with ICO member states in a bid to find solutions for problems facing the Muslim world. Pirzada praised the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against Israeli practices and condemned the recent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

Pirzada added that the ICO is making painstaking efforts to bring about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Interior Minister Discusses Security Situation

JN151503 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 Dec 87 pp 22-24, 71

["Interview of the Week" with Interior Minister Zaki Badr by Sana' al-Sa'id; date and place not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Unlike the situation in other countries of the world, security in Egypt has become a bigger issue than it was in the past. Is this due to new developments?

Interior Minister: Yes, recent changes have made security a pressing issue. It has risen to the forefront of concern as a result of the firm stands Egypt has adopted on national, pan-Arab, and world issues. These stands have made Egypt the target of external threats from elements that reject or object to them. Consequently, we cannot separate internal security from the external forces which are lying in wait for Egypt. My words are not casual; they are based on facts. Evidence confirming the existence of such a link has been revealed by certain cases now under investigation. With regard to the domestic situation, the march of democracy has reached a stage previously unknown to Egypt. Democracy has advantages that make it indispensible; however, there are those who try to exploit it in order to make trouble and to undermine legality and security.

The efforts being made to rebuild Egypt economically and socially are inevitably coupled with parallel efforts to consolidate stability and security. Otherwise, our efforts will be in vain. Can tourism projects succeed without strong security? Can agricultural plans succeed without halting soil erosion? Consequently, security is a requirement for all development plans.

[Al-Sa'id] In the past there have been attempts to test the security situation in Egypt. Some people have tried to find gaps in order to accuse the security services of negligence. Does that affect the general performance of these services?

Interior Minister: I like to spend more than half my time in meetings with police officers, policemen, and civilian employees in various areas of work. I talk to them frankly about what is being said about them in an effort to protect them from devious methods which intend to make them doubt themselves and their objectives. This has a negative effect on them and makes their performance hesitant and ineffective. Praise be to God, such attempts have failed to penetrate the police. The police have never been more united in their goals, and their faith in their methods has never been stronger.

[Al-Sa'id] However, the police are the target of an attack—which to say the least is fierce—by some people who oppose police policy and who try hard to find mistakes and pitfalls.

Interior Minister: Some of those who assail the police do so to harm me personally. Naturally, they hold me responsible for many things. However, that is a narrow circle which soon dries up. They then can find no other way to harm me except by fabricating police mistakes and misdeeds in an attempt to hurt the command of the police, which I am honored to hold.

If it is necessary to continue such unjustified attacks, then I hope that they will be confined to me personally and that the national police will be spared, for it is in no one's interest to harm or to undermine them.

[Al-Sa'id] In your reply to questions in the People's Assembly about torture, some people understood from your answers that 80 percent of the complaints and accusations in this regard are malicious. However, this also means that at least 20 percent of the complaints are correct. Is this true?

Interior Minister: First let me point out that I said in my reply that torture allegations are the traditional method used by everyone facing criminal or political prosecution to refute the charges against them and to avoid punishment. I also said that malicious accusations are a common method of revenge and that 80 percent of the accusations made are of this type and therefore baseless. In my reply, which was distributed both to pro-government and to opposition papers, I said verbatim: Our statistics on the complaints and accusations made by citizens show that more than 80 percent of them are malicious and therefore baseless. Also, there is no doubt that by virtue of his job, a policeman is more exposed to malice and revenge than other people. Therefore, I never said that 20 percent of the allegations of police torture are correct, as certain people are trying to insinuate.

It is obvious from what I have stated that I am trying to confirm that malicious complaints and accusations from citizens are common and frequent. They resort more to this method of behavior when the police are involved. In this context, I was not speaking specifically about torture allegations, but about allegations in general. My statements came in a reply to a question that I myself put forth when I asked: How do we explain the reports in some papers about complaints alleging police torture? I only referred to this point to show that false accusations are common. Once again, I say that my reply has been printed and distributed to the press. However, some people like to falsify things, to twist facts, and to cite remarks that I did not make.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people claim that policemen, as a security force, are today no longer a deterrent force but have become an oppressive force. I ask you: How can we reach an equation that will allow deterrence to overide oppression?

Interior Minister: In my opinion, the difference between deterrence and oppression is like that between abiding by and violating the law. If the police take measures against an individual or collective violation of the law, then such measures are desirable whether people call them deterrence or oppression.

[Al-Sa'id] What, then, are the rules governing the relationship between strategy and tactics in the Interior Ministry's functions?

Interior Minister: In simple terms, our strategy is to maintain peace and order and to assert the supremacy of the law. This strategy is firm and does not change. Tactics, however, change with the situation and the type and degree of the violation. They also depend on the elements violating the law. Some people do not mean to violate the law, so soft words of persuasion are sufficient to dissuade them. There are many elements of this type, thank God. With other people, however, soft words of advice only make them more defiant. With these people, we use the other method—the force and oppression of the law.

[Al-Sa'id] Can the police, who represent an effective weapon safeguarding security, suffer from the advocation of double standards so that we see those in charge, or at least some of them, violating the law when they are entrusted with implementing it?

Interior Minister: I believe that the most serious mistake a policeman can make is to allow himself to violate the law or any part of it, whether the violation is a minor or a major offense such as theft or drug trafficking. I pronounce and reiterate that there is no tolerance for any policeman who violates the law. This stand is being put into effect. By the way, I am not one of those who hide or justify police mistakes. On the contrary, I issue directives by announcing them to the public. I also hold the police responsible according to the regulations and rules governing their work, even if the prosecutors and courts absolve them. As a matter of fact, I have noted that police cadres, along with the overwhelming majority of the police force—all of whom are honorable and honest—welcome measures against lawbreakers and wrongdoers in their ranks. They are fully aware that the deviation of a minority will undermine them as members of an apparatus that is supposed to set an example.

[Al-Sa'id] Is it not easy in the police to see professional allegiances obliterate the signs of any possible indictment for violations of the law or the use of torture?

Interior Minister: Police allegiances can never absolve the wrongdoer or obliterate lawbreaking. The best evidence corroborating this is that a review of all violations, mistakes, or deviations attributed to the police has revealed that the police apparatus has always been an agency that apprehended the wrongdoers in its ranks. As I have said: The police apparatus has no interest in hiding any wrongdoing or in defending any lawbreaking. We live in an open society in which everything is known by and presented to the public. It is preferable and more honorable for us to tackle our mistakes and violations of the law ourselves before they are exposed by others, whether opponents or supporters.

[Al-Sa'id] Out of the desire to carry out its mission and to safeguard its entity, the security apparatus in Britain, one of the oldest democratic states, cannot be penetrated by haphazard acts or irresponsible words. But we in Egypt are perpetrating a premeditated murder of our own apparatus under the guise of launching a democratic dialogue with it.

Interior Minister: Certainly, a security apparatus must enjoy the esteem and respect of society, for a policeman's esteem is not accorded to him as a person but in his capacity as a law enforcer. A society that belittles the police and that tries to undermine them is indirectly belittling the law, which is an expression of society's will as a whole. This does not mean that we are placing the security apparatus above criticism. It is an apparatus that works with the masses and through their directives. However, we do not want to see it defamed. We also do not want to see attempts to cast doubts on its integrity, capabilities, and measures. I believe that this issue is an important one, and I want to present it to everyone, to supporters and opponents alike, for discussion. I also want to reiterate that if the police apparatus were to lose its esteem and ability, then everything else in society, including stealing citizens' money, violating women's honor, and undermining citizens' rights, would be permissible. There is no interest served or benefit derived by trying to undermine the security apparatus or by making oneself an equal or partner to that apparatus. It seeks to serve all citizens and not the objectives or purposes of an individual or group.

[Al-Sa'id] In light of the objective dialogue that should take place and its possible absence from the arena, I wonder why journalists who do not pursue the right course are not deterred. What is the use of polemics? And why do courts not take the initiative?

Interior Minister: Some newspapers have published much information which lawyers have said violates the law and the publishers can be convicted. But I refused to file suit because I did not want to preoccupy the judiciary with new cases and I wanted to cling to democracy. Despite objections to what is being published, I believe that such excesses are part of the march of democracy, especially since it has not yet been entrenched as everyone wants. I also believe that the broad masses will judge what is being published in these papers. Fortunately, in most cases their judgment favored my positions.

[Al-Sa'id] During a dialogue with the late Dr Wahid Ra'fat [not further identified] on the press crisis 1 year ago, he told me that, regrettably, the press has transgressed all limits, some opposition papers use base language that should not appear in any self-respecting paper, and the Journalists Association should be tough if necessary in its interests and those of the profession. Can a dialogue begin among the various organs without the participation of the interior minister?

Interior Minister: I welcome any dialogue between the police organs and the Journalists Association. But I believe that the interior minister himself and his policy are at issue, as you want to hint. Therefore, I plan to go there myself to explain my viewpoint. Hence, I cannot agree with you that a dialogue without the interior minister can be fruitful. As long as the interior minister draws up police policy and can amend it, why should he not face comment on that policy?

Why should the interior minister leave the matter to the sides that do not understand all dimensions as he does and that cannot shoulder responsibility as he does? The idea that the interior minister should not take part in the dialogue is unacceptable. I do not hold dialogue only with associations and large institutions, but also with ordinary citizens on certain issues, which he does not understand. I try to persuade the citizen or be persuaded by him if his ideas are sound.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding cooperation between the police and the press, why is there no official ministry spokesman who can cover all affairs pertaining to the Interior Ministry? In this case, there would be no need for the so-called representative at the security organs, which should not be under media scrutiny so they do not lose their importance as the bodies dealing with the security of the homeland and its citizens.

Interior Minister: The security organs have two missions. They deal directly with the masses and extend services to citizens. Hence, it is the right of any journalist to follow up the Ministry's activity in this regard, assess it, and make proposals to improve the work of these organs. The second mission of these organs concerns some criminal cases or political issues that remain under study and investigation. Such cases and issues have nothing to do with pro and antigovernment newspapers until the results appear. Therefore, I do not believe in concentrating media activity on one official, although such an official is necessary for coordinating the Ministry's media policy. The duty of this official is coordination rather than implementation.

[Al-Sa'id] On the level of security tasks, has the security organ succeeded in containing the extremist religious groups?

Interior Minister: The security organ has succeeded in limiting and monitoring the activities of extremist groups. However, I say with extreme regret that as it has confronted the symptoms only, the security organ has not managed to treat the disease in the body of society that can produce these elements. As I have said on more than one occasion: Terrorism is not a security problem but a social issue.

[Al-Sa'id] Some may say we forget that Egyptian law does not ban religious activities, unlike some states whose laws ban any religious activities and stipulate imprisonment for those affiliated with any religious group.

Interior Minister: Correct religious activity is not only not banned, but required. I believe extremist thoughts and extremist acivities would not exist at all had there been correct religious activity.

We in Egypt have more than 70,000 mosques and more than 2,000 religious societies teaching the Koran and offering religious instruction. We support and back these societies. We reject only terrorism and extremism as an action that affects society and poses great danger to its members. Religious organizations or institutions must have a legal status, which makes it possible to follow up and know their activities. Otherwise they become illegal, which requires a confrontation by the police to see that the law is implemented.

[Al-Sa'id] How many detainees are there from religious groups in accordance with the emergency law?

Interior Minister: Naturally, the number changes from one day to another. Everyday new detainees are brought in and others are released. However, I would like to assert that no single detainee from these groups or others remains in custody without compelling necessity and only as long as this necessity requires.

The detainees can be classified as follows: Some 520 citizens affiliated with extremist groups; 248 considered dangerous on the basis of their criminal records, posing a threat to citizens; and 241 drug traffickers and dealers.

There are fewer than 70 prisoners involved in money trafficking. At the beginning of the government measures 267 money dealers were imprisoned. They were then gradually released after stability had been brought to the markets. At any rate, these detainees are supposed to be released gradually unless the court decides to continue their detention.

[Al-Sa'id] One of the paradoxes is saying that Egypt is more secure and safe and at the same time continuing to implement the emergency law. This restricts the work of the judicial system itself. Are there still real security justifications for the emergency law?

Interior Minister: Certainly, the circumstances still necessitate maintaining the emergency law. Since I assumed my post as interior minister, I have insisted on the continuation of the emergency law. Things are calm on the surface. Some have taken the opportunity to say that the police want this law to have in hand exceptional authority to terrorize whoever they want. However, some events, like the recent assassination attempts and several incidents involving foreign embassies, quickly have proved that we are not imagining unexisting dangers but that our expectations are based on accurate calculations and monitored activities.

You ask why the emergency law while security in Egypt is stable. I say the stable security situation in Egypt at present is at least partially a result of the existence of the emergency law, which gives the police greater freedom to take necessary and urgent security measures. I say once again that the emergency law does not harm the judicial authorities because it is being implemented under them. On the other hand, we must not forget that the emergency law has been established with the approval of the legilsature. Emergency does not harm the law. What really harms the judicial system is to act without a law, to violate the law, or to ignore it.

[Al-Sa'id] But the emergency law is only enforced against a specific strata of the population. Otherwise, how can a woman who has harmed society escape from the country under the canopy of the emergency law?

Interior Minister: Yes, the emergency law is enforced only against a specific strata of the population. These are the extremists, terrorists, drug traffickers, criminals, and currency smugglers who undermine the national economy. There is a dereliction of duty somewhere with respect to the escape of the woman you mentioned. We are investigating this case to pinpoint the party that failed to carry out his duty if he is in the security organs. However, there is no connection between the emergency law and the escape of a citizen.

[Al-Sa'id] Complete silence is being observed on the escape abroad of the president of the Hedco Company. Her escape has raised skepticism over the effiency of the security organs, especially the belief that many such cases have taken place in the past. I wonder if there is a mafia among the police that facilitates the task of those who want to flout the law?

Interior Minister: The security organs are giving special attention to this particular case. We will not remain silent on it. It is true we haven't collected all the facts, but we will continue our investigations.

[Al-Sa'id] The question that remains to be answered is, how did she manage to escape?

Interior Minister: It is possible she escaped with a forged passport. Another possibility is that she still is in Egypt. All the rumors about her escape cannot be substantiated. This case continues to be investigated, and we will announce the facts once we get them. But there can never be a mafia within the police force intentionally allowing her or anyone else to violate the law and leave the country. There has so far been no proof of any dereliction of duty on the part of the security organs because there are many ways of escape and they cannot all be controlled. This is true of every country in the world. We also cannot be sure that there has been any dereliction of duty on the part of the security organs.

[Al-Sa'id] When I interviewed you in August 1986, you said in your reply to my question on the Egypt's Revolution organization—this organization opened fire on an Israeli diplomat in June 1984 and assassinated another Israeli diplomat in August 1985 and then there was the incident at the Cairo fair in mid-1986—you said this organization does not exist, that it neither has Egyptian affiliations nor operates on Egyptian soil and that from time to time it unduly assumes the name of Egypt in an attempt to harm it. How did you later discover it does have Egyptian affiliations and operates on Egyptian soil?

Interior Minister: I have always said the affiliation to Egypt is never based on birth certificates or passports but on the commitment to Egypt's principles, values, ethics, and policy without external influence or working for foreign parties. When the full details about the Egypt's Revolution organization are made public, you will see that my statements that they do not belong to Egypt are true.

[Al-Sa'id] Some rumors say the security organs facilitated the escape of a member of this organization. Is this true?

Interior Minister: The security organs do not facilitate the escape of any person who is wanted by justice. I cannot here elaborate further on this issue, which is still in the hands of the public prosecutor. But I would like to stress here that no one is above the law. The system of government in Egypt does not condone granting immunity to any culprit, whoever he may be. There can be no doubts about this.

[Al-Sa'id] It was reported that the Al-Kharqaniyah operation to apprehend the culprits of the recent assassination attempts had failed because of inadequate planning and a unilateral decision by one of the senior officers. How true are these reports?

Interior Minister: The failure of an operation is possible in any world organ and this does not at all mean there is a deficiency. The one who describes it so is a tendentious and rancorous person. There is no deficiency or haphazardness in the security organ's planning of any operation.

[Al-Sa'id] But the recent assassination attempts and the escape of some culprits have revealed a deficiency in the quick and decisive security presence in the Egyptian street which could have caught the culprits at the scene of the incident if it had had the capabilities to do so.

Interior Minister: No security organ in the whole world can achieve 100 percent prompt successful results in combating any type of crime due to many considerations. Top among them is that the criminal has the initiative in hand. He is the one who chooses his crime, place, and time. It is inconceivable that the security organs could be fully prepared in all places and at all times. Accordingly, success becomes relative. It is true that those involved in the attempts against Major General Hasan Abu Basha, Maj Gen Al-Nabawi Isma'il, and Makram Muhammad Ahmad managed to escape for some time, but they eventually fell into the hands of justice. It is always said that it is the end which counts.

[Al-Sa'id] But the physician, one of the culprits, is still at large.

Interior Minister: I can affirm it is only a matter of time. We continue our search for him and he cannot disappear forever. Although I do not want to put responsibility on others, I would like to say there must be some negativity on the part of some citizens who enabled a person involved in terrorism and whose name is known and whose picture has been published more than once to continue his escape despite the crime he committed.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there anything new regarding the central security, especially since it has been reported there will be a reduction in its forces?

Interior Minister: The forces have been reduced by 15 percent. There are no plans to reduce them further, particularly after the increase of burdens which require the presence of the central security forces. However, instead of increasing their number we are raising their efficiency to guarantee their swift movement to the scenes of incidents. We are also boosting their capabilities and paying attention to the moral aspect.

[Al-Sa'id] The state security intelligence organ is a source of trouble and anxiety for the ordinary citizen. Many have the impression that those responsible for it are fond of hunting people and fabricating charges against them.

Interior Minister: This is untrue and has not been confirmed in practice. By virtue of its work, this organ has to detect, verify, and follow up cases before taking a decision regarding them. It is natural for the organizations the organ investigates to level false accusations against it. Moreover, all measures by the state security intelligence service are directly supervised by me in my capacity as an interior minister, in addition to the supervision of the judiciary. Accordingly, the state security intelligence organ is a national organ that puts the interest of Egypt above the interest of a certain faction or certain persons.

[Al-Sa'id] There have been increasing complaints of telephone taps on intellectuals and opinion leaders who are above suspicion.

Interior Minister: Unless sanctioned by a judicial warrant, telephone tapping is a crime. In any case, evidence produced from telephone taps is inadmissible. So what's the point of tapping telephone? Reports of the Interior Ministry arbitrarily tapping telephones are groundless. If those who hear funny sounds on their telephones think they are being monitored, there must be something wrong with them. To those who think their telephones are tapped, I say why bother as long as you are not doing anything suspicious.

[Al-Sa'id] I wonder, now that Egyptian-Arab relations have been restored, if there is greater room for security cooperation with other Arab states?

Interior Minister: Absolutely. I would like to point out, however, that despite the absence of relations between Egypt and other Arab countries, security cooperation was not completely cut off. There were contacts, mostly unpublicized, involving coordination, cooperation, and the exchange of intelligence with Arab security services. And now with relations restored, we have undertaken a reassessment of joint Arab security and decided to increase coordination.

Incidentally, we have decided that for the first time the 25 January celebrations will be held within the framework of a comprehensive Arab security concept. This will take the form of holding three scientific symposia with participants from Arab security departments. One will discuss the subject of violence and terror directed against our Arab nation. Another will concern itself with narcotics and the third will address crimes committed in more than one Arab country. Invitations have been sent to Arab interior ministers to look at the findings and recommendations of the symposia and then endorse them.

[Al-Sa'id] Speaking of Arab and other countries in the region, are there outstanding complications with Syria and Libya? And what about Iran?

Interior Minister: There are no complications between us and any Arab country. However, we watch out for any threats to Egypt's stability and legitimacy stemming from any services in these countries and take appropriate measures. Once again, I say Egypt's security services are ready to start with a clean slate regarding security cooperation with all countries as long as there is goodwill and truthfulness.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the conference on terrorism scheduled to be held in Cairo? What will it include?

Interior Minister: It will be a scientific conference on terrorism, consponsored by an American university and certain Arab scientific bodies. It will look at terrorism in all of its aspects, including its influences and how to tackle it. It will be scientifically oriented, taking a scientific appproach based on analysis and research. The conference will be held here [in Cairo] in the first half of the coming year.

[Al-Sa'id] In light of intelligence and surveillance conducted by security services, is terrorism still a reality to be reckoned with?

Interior Minister: Successive assassinations and the attorney general's announcement on the existence of numerous groups—more menacing than the one that carried out the recent operations—are enough to answer your question.

[Al-Sa'id] Currently there is a realization of the need for international cooperation on steps aimed at isolating the states that give legitimacy to terrorism. What are your proposals and what type of measures can be taken on the security level?

Interior Minister: The security measures we adopt within an international framework are mainly the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry and are part of Egypt's firm international policy. As an Interior Ministry, we are bound to implement any agreement in this regard.

[Al-Sa'id] But what is your viewpoint regarding the feasibility of economic sanctions? Are these sanctions sufficient to eliminate terrorism or should they be linked to other security, military, and political elements?

Interior Minister: I said and say again that foreign policy is not the Interior Ministry's responsibility. This policy has international, African, and Arab dimensions, which are drawn up basically by the Foreign Ministry.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you ready to sign agreements on the extradition of terrorists? We will not forget in this regard that the absence of such agreements one day prevented Malta from turning over to Egypt the terrorist who hijacked an Egyptian airliner.

Interior Minister: I said and repeat that we welcome any bilateral or multilateral agreements between us and any Arab or African state or any state in the world. We believe Arab, African, and international security is an integrated whole. With the development of means of communication and transportation, it is wrong for any state to view its internal security in isolation from events in all other states. A sufficient example is that of drugs, which flow into Egypt from the East and West.

[Al-Sa'id] What measures do you adopt against terrorism which might be stirred by outside elements or states that have been perpetrating acts of violence or launching an undeclared war against Egypt? These states are used to employing terrorism in exporting a revolution or toppling a regime.

Interior Minister: On the local level, we follow up such attempts and take all necessary measures against them in accordance with Egyptian law.

[Al-Sa'id] But can you encounter terrorism stirred by some governments and world intelligence organs, especially since encountering it means encountering the governments and organs manipulating it?

Interior Minister: We are responsible for what is perpetrated inside Egypt. As for what agents abroad are planning, there are other organs specialized in this hostile activity.

[Al-Sa'id] Although terrorism is common and widespread, there is no standard definition of it. It is always interpreted according to the circumstances of the state and developments. In your opinion, what is the exact definition of terrorism?

Interior Minister: Any violation of the law and any use of violence is terrorism.

[Al-Sa'id] The security methods to encounter terrorism are usually limited and do not help uproot this phenomenon, which has turned into a daily practice in some states. Does this not require a modernization of security methods and capabilities?

Interior Minister: We have sufficient capabilities in the field of combating terrorism. We have specialized groups with a high level of training and armament and they can work efficiently. We are constantly developing our capabilities and obtaining the most modern scientific techniques from all states.

Kenyan Information Minister Begins Visit

NC171124 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Noah Katana Ngala, Kenyan minister of information and broadcasting, arrived in Cairo from Cyprus this morning for a 2-day official visit to Egypt. During his visit, he will meet with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

In an arrival statement, the Kenyan minister said he and Safwat al-Sharif will dicuss bilateral cooperation in information matters and preparations for the African Information Ministers Conference due to be held in Addis Ababa in January. The conference will focus on the activities of the African News Agencies Association.

The Kenyan foreign minister said he had attended the Conference of the Broadcastihng Organizations of the Nonaligned Countries which was held in Cyprus and discussed cooperation between nonaligned countries in the field of broadcasting. The conference lasted 5 days.

Soviet TU Delegation Holds Talks in Cairo

NC161748 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Nasiev Aliyev, president of the Building and Building Materials Industry Workers Union in the Azarbayjan Soviet Socialist Republic [name and title as received], has praised President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's efforts to achieve a just peace in the Middle East and support the cause of the Palestinian people. The Soviet trade unionist also lauded President Mubarak's interest in the issue of development and his endeavors to improve the living standards and alleviate the burdens of the toiling classes in Egypt.

He added that the Egyptian people and labor's experiment in the development process in a bid to create better living conditions for the Egyptian people enjoys the Soviet trade union movement's greatest admiration. Aliyev affirmed the eagerness of the Soviet trade unions to establish close cooperation with their Egyptian counterparts. He noted that the Soviet workers are following up with appreciation their Egyptian colleagues' efforts toward construction and prosperity in the country.

These statements were made today during a meeting Aliyev and the members of his accompanying delegation held with leading figures of the Egyptian General Trade Union of Building Workers, which is presided over by Muhammad Munir al-Dirghami. During the session, both sides reviewed the activities of building workers in both Egypt and the USSR, as well as ways to promote bilateral coperation and coordination in all fields of interest.

The Soviet trade union delegation members toured the cement factories in the Hulwan industrial area today. They met with officials and leading trade unionists in these factories.

It should be noted that the Soviet delegation arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday on a 10-day visit to Egypt.

People's Assembly Condemns Israeli Acts

NC171058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—The People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee has condemned all the illegitimate practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories, including acts of repression, terrorism, and detention, as well as the attempt to obliterate the Palestinian identity.

The committee issued a statement today appealing to the European Parliament and all parliaments in the world, particularly those of Islamic and African countries, to make efforts to put an end to the hostile acts against the Palestinian people and to contribute to the promotion of a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue through convening an international conference so the Palestinian people can attain their legitimate rights to liberty and self-determination.

The committee expressed its extreme anxiety at what is happening inside the occupied Arab territories and its regret and sorrow over the martyrs who have fallen victim to the Israeli occupation authorities' operations of repression and terrorism against unarmed Palestinian civilians.

Technical Committee Members Return From Sudan

NC170856 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—The Egyptian delegation to the discussions of the Egyptian-Sudanese Brotherhood Charter Technical Committees returned to Cairo from Khartoum this morning after a 5-day visit. The delegation, chaired by Assistant Foreign Minister Wafa' Hijazi, met with senior Sudanese officials in Khartoum.

Wafa' Hijazi stated that the purpose of the visit was to prepare for the meeting of the Higher Joint Committee under the chairmanship of the Egyptian and Sudanese prime ministers which is due to take place in Khartoum in early January. He added that the Egyptian-Sudanese technical committees discussed important issues and proposals that are bound to promote bilateral cooperation in food security and development projects and will foster active bilateral economic relations. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi-Al-Mirghani Conversation Noted

LD161856 Tripoli JANA in English 1736 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani" the president of the head of State's Council in sisterly Sudan established a telephone contact with the leader of the revolution.

Arab Opposition Meeting To Discuss Egypt

LD162156 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The nationalist conference of Arab opposition parties announced the holding of an Arab popular conference in which practical ways to return Egypt and what must be offered to it and its people on various economic, political and military to confront David stable, will be discussed.

On concluding its sessions on Monday, the conference decided to support the struggle of the Arab people in Egypt by way of returning to Egypt its role and progressive nationalist line to foil the David stable policies.

The conference which was convened in response to an invitation from the leader of the revolution to confront Arab deteriorating situations, decided to work together with the Egyptian opposition forces to work out a practical formula on the popular level to ensure Arab solidarity with Egypt's people and its national movement that will enable it to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionist plot against Egypt's Arabism.

UN Envoy Discusses Palestinian 'Uprising'

LD161134 Tripoli JANA in English 1050 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] New York, Al-Kanun [December] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The representative of Great al-Jamahiriyah at the United Nations has pointed out that the people's uprising raging through the occupied land is a harbinger of stepping up the resistance against occupation.

He adds that this uprising confirms the resolve on the part of the Palestinian Arab people to end this occupation.

In his speech delivered at the meeting in New York held by the Organization of Islamic Conference the above representative stressed that this question did not need the release of any statement or denunciation, but it needs the termination of the Zionist occupation of Palestine through people's resistance and armed struggle pointing out the responsibility of the U.S. is not only to condemn the repressive operations perpetrated by the Zionists, but to end the Zionist occupation altogether.

Sudan

Al-Qadhdhafi Reaffirms Support for Khartoum

JN161516 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Dec (SUNA)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, this morning. During their conversation, Al-Qadhdhafi informed Al-Mirghani of the support of the Jamahiriyah—both government and people—for Sudan. He also reiterated the Jamahiriyah's support and backing for Khartoum in the face of the dangers and conspiracies it is being subjected to.

Government, Garang Conclude 'Secret' Agreement

PM161605 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 87 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Secret Agreement Signed in London Between the Sudanese Government and Garang's Movement"]

[Text] London—Reliable diplomatic sources have revealed details of secret meetings in London that lasted 5 days between representatives of the Sudanese Government and representatives of the SPLM, which is led by John Garang.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meetings, which began on 28 November and ended on 3 December, resulted in an agreement that was signed by both sides. They added that the delegation representing the Sudanese Government was headed by Major General Fadlallah Nasir, minister of state for defense. It also included Major General 'Abd al-'Azim Sadiq, chief of staff of the Sudanese Army, and Brigadier General Salah Mustafa, chief of military intelligence. Garang's movement was represented by his chief of staff, Thuon Aruk, and a delegation from the movement.

During the meetings, the two sides reached a written agreement. The most important point it contained was that both sides emphasized that any dialogue to solve the problem of southern Sudan must be based on the Koka Dam accords, which were signed in Ethiopia at a meeting attended by the movement and various Sudanese political forces. The Sudanese side has promised to present the Garang movement's views on two points to the political forces in Khartoum:

The first is the need to abolish the September laws [Islamic legal code] issued by former President Ja'far Numaryi before the intended call for a constitutional conference—which the movement will attend—is issued.

The second is that the Garang movement undertakes to permit relief convoys to reach famine-stricken areas behind the battlelines, especially those coming from Kenya and Uganda to areas controlled by the government. In the meantime, the Sudanese officials are to allow convoys from Khartoum to cross to the areas controlled by Garang.

The same diplomatic sources believe that the agreement, which is the first document to be signed by the two sides, is tantamount to an admission that their dispute is political.

Army General on Loss of Jokau, Kurmuk

PM171151 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Dec 87 p 12

[Interview with Staff Lieutenant General Sirri Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd al-Nur, deputy chief of the General Staff, by Idris al-Qadi in Ad-Damazin; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT put a number of questions to Lieutenant General Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd al-Nur, Sudanese deputy chief of staff, who said: War has been raging between us and the enemy. We have been fighting two enemies: a local enemy, namely John Garang, and a foreign enemy, that is, all forces backing Garang and his movement. Lt Gen 'Abd al-Nur added that military garrisons currently based on the border are in line with the geographically imposed nature of these border. The Kurmuk military garrison is one of the most important military posts. It was established, due to the importance of the Kurmuk border, to protect the town of Kurmuk.

'Abd al-Nur stated: The size of the force in each garrison has been set to enable it to carry out its missions and to provide access for other defensive systems. Since the battle of Jokau, Garang has been employing an Eastern bloc tactic in his operations, namely the Russian method. He has benefited from being in Ethiopian territory, as well as from Ethiopian backing. The latter includes artillery and rockets of all types. He shelled Sudanese defensive positions using the Russian system known as the hectare method. This is when each hectare is subjected to a bombardment by a fixed number of shells over specific periods of time, with the aim of destroying all defenses. The use of this tactic enabled him to sweep the position.

'Abd al-Nur said that, in terms of combat capabilities, Garang and his forces, however powerful they are, are not capable of invading any Sudanese garrison unless they employed Ethiopian resources—artillery and long-range missiles—and applied the Russian system in their combat operations. He added: Proof of this is that when Garang stood at the height of his power, he could not achieve any success in any of his battles in the south against the Army until he applied the hectare method.

'Abd al-Nur confirmed that the Army's withdrawal from Kurmuk was decided upon after the situation was assessed. The decision was carried out so that a pullback with the minimum possible losses would allow other areas to be defended. It also allowed plans to recover Kurmuk be reorganized.

[Al-Qadi] What were the military losses following the withdrawal from Kurmuk?

['Abd al-Nur] We usually assess the scale of losses; our losses during the withdrawal were too few to mention.

[Al-Qadi] In your statements, you referred to the combined foreign-Ethiopian intervention that led to the fall of Kurmuk. What evidence of this intervention do you have?

['Abd al-Nur] Foreign and Ethiopian backing for John Garang comes from the territories that Garang launches his operations from. As for the action that led to the fall of Kurmuk, shells were fired from the Ruduk Mountains in Ethiopia. This range lies behind the Ethiopian town of Dol. Garang used medium and heavy artillery to shell Kurmuk. We know that his movement possesses neither the ability nor the experience to use artillery and rocket launchers. Because it is not a regular army, Garang's movement cannot provide the quantities of ammunition and military equipment needed for such operations.

Therefore, I stress that all materiel used in the operation that led to Kurmuk's capture must have been Ethiopian. This equipment must have been operated by personnel from the Ethiopian Army and by the other nationalities that support them. Interrogation of some rebel captives proved there was Ethiopian involvement in support for the movement.

[Al-Qadi] Garang's movement has repeatedly shelled border towns that the Armed Forces have withdrawn from. This occurred at Jokau before the recent fall of Kurmuk. Have the Sudanese Armed Forces formulated a new strategy for defending border towns and villages in order to avoid further losses?

['Abd al-Nur] The term withdrawal exists in the military dictionary. To us, we the military, these border towns are defensive outposts. They have fallen and they must be recovered. We do not act emotionally; we are handling the situation according to plans for defending Sudan that were drawn up by the Sudanese Armed Forces. As for the question of defending border towns and villages, we have benefited from previous defensive experiences in the two towns of Jokau and Kurmuk. We know how Garang and his supporters attack; therefore, we know how to defend border positions. I confirm that Garang will fail if he tries to repeat the tactic that allowed him to take Jokau and Kurmuk.

Armed Forces Operations Kill 95 'Outlaws'

EA160957 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces have issued the following statement: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The Armed Forces are continuing to resist the stoogery and the divisive forces in all parts of our beloved Sudan. They are strengthened by faith and proud of the material and moral support received from all citizens—young and old, men, women, and children.

Today, 15 December 1987, our Armed Forces, together with friendly forces, carried out successful operations south of the Yom area against the camps of the outlaws in Fangak, Kir, (Surtinya), (Suz), Al-Yoi, Burij al-Tuyur, Nor, and (Solit). The outlaws numbered 1,400, but their camps were completely destroyed. Our Armed Forces suffered no losses, while the friendly forces suffered three martyrs and four injured.

The Armed Forces and friendly forces killed 95 and wounded a large number of the forces of stoogery. The also captured 75 Kalashnikov rifles, one (Goryunov) gun, one (Dittalyov) gun, one 64 [word indistinct], and 60-mm mortars. The Armed Forces and the friendly forces are still opposing the remnants inside the [word indistinct].

In the military region of Bahr al-Ghazal, our forces are continuing their operations against the enemy positions, [words indistinct] in the areas of Rumbek, Mading, Mabeig, (Al-Ruff), (Kibar), and (?North Aweil). [passage indistinct]

Our forces returned to their bases safely and in good spirits. Eternal victory to our glorious martyrs! Victory to our Armed Forces and our united Sudan!

3 Ethiopians Captured

JN171200 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Ad-Damazin, 17 Dec (SUNA)—Eighteen outlaws were killed, 10 others, including 3 Ethiopians, were captured, and 200 artillery shells and a quantity of weapons and food were captured by the Armed Forces. This was accomplished in an attack on the camp of the outlaws in the Shali al-Fil region.

In a statement to SUNA, Staff Major General Zayn al-'Abidin Qasamallah, commander of the 2d Division, commented that the prisoners were transferred to the command headquarters and that some of them provided important information.

The commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces stated on Tuesday that the Armed Forces in the Shali al-Fil area inflicted heavy losses on the outlaws and also captured five 80-mm guns.

Joint Technical Committee Statement Signed

JN171229 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 17 (SUNA)—The joint Sudanese-Egyptian technical committee last night signed its closing statement which contained recommendations to be submitted to the forthcoming meetings of the joint high committee here next month. The two sides have agreed to submit the recommendations reached by consensus to the next session of the Brotherhood Charter and to postpone other issues for a third session.

The statement was signed by Acting Foreign Under Secretary Mirghani Sulayman for Sudan and Assistant Foreign Minister Muhammad Wafa' Hajazi for Egypt.

The leaders of the two sides exchanged speeches commending the deliberations of their meetings which they described as successful.

Food Security Company Set

JN171230 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 17 (SUNA)—A holding company with a capital of 29 million dollars will be set up between Sudan and Egypt for the purpose of boosting food security projects jointly implemented by the two countries.

The head of the Egptian side to the meetings devoted for preparing the Brotherhood Charter's draft Mr. Muhammad Wafa' Hajazi told the daily AL-AYYAM that doors will be opened for public and private participation in the holding company.

He told the paper that agreement has been reached for expanding existing joint agricultural projects in the Sudan and the implementation of a new project in Ash Shamaliyah Province, north Sudan, to be devoted for wheat.

He pinpointed that the two sides have also to execute other agricultural projects for the same purpose of food security.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Establishes Constitutional Council

LD152207 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The Presidency has issued the following announcement: His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has decided to establish a constitutional council for the Republic. Its main duties will be to decide whether bills conform to the provisions of the Constitution.

The members of the council include: Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, chairman; and Beji Caid Essebsi, Hassib Benamar, Mohamed Fitouri, Rachid Driss, Iyadh Ben Achour, Mansour Cheffi, Raouf Bouker, Lazhar Bou-Ouni, Abdelfattah Omar, and Mustapha Bhiri.

President Grants Pardon to Condemned Prisoner

LD170546 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] His excellency the president of the Republic has decided to grant a pardon to 'Ali Laaridh, who was sentenced to death by the State Security Court. The sentence was instead commuted to life imprisonment at hard labor.

Minister Ammar Meets Spanish Defense Minister

LD152102 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Spanish Defense Minister Mr Narciso Serra is paying an official visit to Tunisia. He met this morning with Minister of Interior Mr Habib Ammar, then stated that their talks had covered ways of raising Tunisian-Spanish relations to the level of the ties between the two peoples. A review of the cooperation between Tunisia and Spain in the economic and security sectors also took place.

Defense Pact Signed

LD161337 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Tunis, 16 Dec (TAP)—Mr Slaheddine Baly, minister of state for national defense, and Narciso Serra, Spanish defense minister, signed an agreement on military cooperation at the Defense Ministry in Tunis this morning.

The ceremony was attended by senior officers of the Army and members of the Spanish delegation accompanying Mr Serra. The ambassadors of the two countries also attended the ceremony.

Mr Slaheddine Baly stated that this agreement came within the framework of the excellent relations existing between Spain and Tunisia. This agreement indicated that "Tunisian-Spanish relations are developing in the way hoped for by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and King Juan Carlos."

The minister of state added that this agreement, which was the first to be signed between the two countries, was aimed at raising military cooperation to the same level that cooperation in other fields had attained. He also noted that the pact would consolidate the deep-rooted ties between Tunisia and Spain.

In his reply to the statement of Slaheddine Baly, Mr Narciso Serra pointed out that only a convergence of interests and a desire for cooperation existed between Tunisia and Spain. He then stated: "I am convinced that with this agreement, we have established the bases for fruitful cooperation." He added: "The Spanish Government considers this agreement on military cooperation to be a basis for developing bilateral relations and working to benefit our two peoples, by guaranteeing them the means to reinforce their cooperation."

At the conclusion of his statement, Mr Serra stressed the desire of Spain to continue the dialogue with Tunisia to guarantee peace and security in the region of the Mediterranean Ocean. [passage omitted]

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Strike Maldivian Cargo Vessel

JN170827 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0806 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Gulf shipping sources have reported that Iranian gunboats opened fire on the 16,322-tonne cargo ship "Island Transporter", which flies the Maldivian flag, near the Amirate of Sharjah before dawn today. The crew's cabin was set ablaze, but the 37-man crew managed to extinguish the fire after 2 hours, before tugboats arrived to offer assistance.

The "Island Transporter" was carrying chemical fertilizers from Saudi Arabian petrochemical factories. It was on its way outside the waters of the Arabian Gulf.

2d Attack Reported

JN170954 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0929 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 17 Dec (INA)—A cargo ship flying the Maldivian flag has been attacked by two Iranian boats in the Arabian Gulf. The vessel was subjected to a similar attack off the coast of Sharjah, in the UAE, at 0530 local time today, 0130 GMT.

Iranian gunboats first struck this ship in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf off Sharjah this morning. Shipping sources in Dubayy told INA's correspondent that the vessel was carrying matches and was on its way to Bombay from the Saudi and Arabian Gulf port of Ad-Dammam. The ship was sailing 11 nautical miles south of Abu Musa Island in the middle of the Arabian Gulf when missiles from Iranian gunboats were fired at it for the second time. The sources also indicated that the two Iranian gunboats were launched from the base on Abu Musa Island, which Iran occupied during the reign of the shah.

Kuwait

Further on Visit by Egyptian Defense Minister

Discusses Cooperation With Iraq

LD171114 Kuwait KUNA in English 0828 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA)—Egypt's Deputy Premier, Defense and Military Production Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has pledged support for Kuwait and emphasized that Kuwait and Egypt are partners in the Arab national security.

In an interview with daily AL-ANBA', published here Thursday, Abu Ghazalah said he came to Kuwait to examine the situation on the spot and to put a joint picture to support Kuwait's national security.

He said the policy makers in Iran aim at changing policies of countries in the region, surrounding Iran, first, and then bigger scale, through exporting ideas of Khomeyni revolution or by supporting extremism inside neighbouring countries.

Abu Ghazalah said Iran, which conducts a long war on various fronts, is the major nominee for creating instability and disorder in the the Arabian Gulf region, and thus, in the Arab region.

On military cooperation between his country and Iraq, the Egytian official said that Egypt has provided Iraq with all its military needs, adding in many occasions Egypt provided Iraq with its strategic reserves.

Egypt now produces advanced military equipment to avoid as much as possible being dependent, he said, and called on all Arab states to jointly cooperate in the field of military production, whereby our security can be preserved.

Views Pledge to Arabs; Departs

LD171113 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, departed Kuwait today following a 4-day official visit. [passage omitted]

In a statement to KUNA prior to his departure, Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah expressed his pleasure at the adequate capabilities and excellent Armed Forces he had observed in Kuwait. He stated that Egypt is committed to the defense of any Arab state that lacks defensive capabilities and is subjected to acts of aggression. He also noted that Egypt is concerned about the agreement recently signed in Washington between the U.S. and Israeli defense ministers on upgrading the level of U.S.-Israeli arms deals.

Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah added that a large-scale arms race in the Middle East would lead to an extensive confrontation, and that Egypt is concerned by any military growth. He also denied reports on the establishment of a joint Egyptian-Jordanian military command.

Israel Boycott Office Updates Blacklist

LD172130 Kuwait KUNA in English 1518 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 16 (KUNA)—The boycott of Israel office here has recently issued a release listing a number of blacklisted companies, vessels and films. The release said that the Maltese ship 'Mont Fort' and the Costa Rican vessel 'Pandokrator' were blacklisted for calling on Israeli ports. They are hitherto banned from anchoring at Kuwaiti ports, the release added.

It pointed out that the partial ban imposed on the Indian company 'Sagar Exports' has been extended to cover its sister Indian company 'Sagar S. Mehta' for having dealings with Israel.

The boycott of the American 'Coca Cola Co.' also covers its 21 subsidiaries in the U.K, U.S., South Africa, India and Iran, the release noted.

It added that the following films 'Lost Weekend,' 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,' 'Guys and Dolls,' 'Come Blow Your Horn' and 'Black Eagle' were banned from screening in Kuwait for connections with Israeli interests.

PDRY

Al-Dali on Iran, Arab Ties, Support for Kuwait

LD171121 Kuwait KUNA in English 0908 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA)—Democratic Yemen's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali Thursday condemned Iranian attacks against Kuwait, affirming his country's support of Kuwait in protecting its soil and independence against any foreign aggression.

Al-Dali said, in an interview with daily "AL-WATAN" today, "we are against any attack on Kuwait and we have declared that we back Kuwait in defending its lands and independence against any external assault".

The Yemeni minister stressed that the foreign military presence in the Gulf waters creates tension and provides more chances for dangerous occurences, demanding the withdrawal of all foreign fleets.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Dali pointed out that his country backs decisions reached by the Amman summit held last month in that U.N. Resolution 598 is the framework to put an end to the hostilities in the region.

He said that Democratic Yemeni-Iranian ties "are not bad" and the same applies for Iraq, and "the same goes for our brothers in the Gulf."

Al-Dali denied that his country rejects the idea of a union with the Yemen Arab Republic, affirming, "there is no one capable of standing against a union which represents ambitions of Yemeni people in both parts".

He also denied that the presence of ex-Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in Sanaa will affect efforts to unify the two states.

As for the possibility of resuming full diplomatic relations with Cairo, the Yemeni official said that such a decision is up to the leaders of the two countries, noting that his country did not reject the Arab summit's resolution in this regard.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince To Visit Iraq, Syria, Egypt

JN161925 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 16 Dec 87

['Abdallah al-Shihri dispatch from Riyadh]

[Text] Well-informed sources here expect Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, to begin a visit to Iraq on Friday. This will be part of a tour that will also take him to Damascus and Cairo. According to these sources, the schedule of the crown prince will be as follows: From Friday until Saturday evening, he will be in Baghdad. Then he will leave for Damascus, where he will remain until Monday. He will then depart for Cairo and make the first official visit by a Saudi official to that capital since the two fraternal countries resumed diplomatic relations.

The visit of the Saudi crown prince to the three Arab capitals will be devoted to one topic; namely, clearing the Arab atmosphere. In describing the Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation that occurred at the Amman summit between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the Saudi prince stated at that time: When we saw Damascus and Baghdad shake hands, we recalled their contribution to civilization, which has taught mankind the meaning of life. Crown Prince 'Abdallah, who had previously mediated between Damascus and Baghdad, considers a meeting between Saddam Husayn and Al-Asad to be a meeting of strength, and one between two people. Therefore, he will spare no effort to hasten the reconciliation between Baghdad and Damascus. His mediation may go further to reconcile Damascus and Cairo, now that most Arab countries have resumed relations with Egypt. This has opened the door wide to a new Arab role that will enhance the current Arab stand on the fateful issues, particularly the Palestinian cause and the Iraq-Iran war. Iran has rejected the cease-fire resolution, and the efforts of the UN secretary general have completely failed in view of the Iranian policy that rejects peace and justice.

Further on Visit of Moroccan Minister Filali

Meets With Industry Minister

LD142258 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1853 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 Dec (SPA)—'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil, minister of industry and electricity, met this evening with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, who is currently visiting the Kingdom.

During the meeting, the two sides examined cooperation between the Kingdom and Morocco and ways to bolster it. [passage omitted]

Signs Joint Protocol

LD151356 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 Dec (SPA)—His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, met in his office this morning with His Excellency Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco.

During the meeting, the two sides signed the final minutes of the meetings of the fourth session of the joint Saudi-Moroccan committee. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made a speech in which he expressed his satisfaction with the results of the joint committee with regard to the principles and framework for joint action aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation.

His royal highness noted that the leaderships of the two countries were seeking to develop bilateral ties to consolidate the existing relations between their two peoples. They will do this from both an Islamic and an Arab point of view.

His Royal Highness added that the definite desire to bolster relations had reinforced the conviction that these meetings would positively affect ties between the two states and their interests. He continued: "We place our hopes in God Almighty, and then in the efforts made by officials of both countries to translate what has been agreed upon at these meetings into a tangible reality."

His royal highness also expressed his hope of seeing these meetings continue with the same positive attitude and scientific style to reach their objectives and to consolidate clear-cut concepts for the future.

At the end of his speech, his royal highness thanked his excellency the Moroccan minister and the delegation taking part in the meetings, and then wished them success.

His Excellency Abdellatif Filali also gave a speech in which he praised the positive results achieved by the joint Saudi-Moroccan committee, due to the efforts of the two delegations. He expressed his conviction that bilateral cooperation would continue and that relations would be strengthened in accordance with the directives of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, to benefit the two fraternal peoples.

At the conclusion of his speech, his excellency thanked His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the Saudi delegation participating in the meetings of the committee.

When the meeting ended, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and His Excellency Abdellatif Filali exchanged copies of the protocol that had been signed. [passage omitted]

Received by King Fahd

LD151613 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Dec (SPA)—This afternoon, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received in his office at the royal court of Al-Yamamah Palace His Excellency Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco. The guest is currently visiting the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; 'Ali Majid al-Qabbani, Saudi ambassador to Morocco; and Ahmed Ramzi, Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom.

Meets With Oil Minister

LD161422 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, met this morning in his office with His Excellency Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

After the meeting, His Excellency Minister Hisham Nazir told SPA that he and the Moroccan minister had discussed the outcome of the latest OPEC meetings, the results achieved by that organization, and joint cooperation between the Kingdom and Morocco in producing phosphates and sulfur.

Joint Committee Meeting Ends

LD161634 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The joint Moroccan-Saudi committee has agreed to establish a Saudi-Moroccan company for agricultural, economic, and commercial investments.

After the close of the proceedings of the fourth session of this committee, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation held a news conference in Riyadh. During the news conference, Mr Abdellatif Filali indicated that he had conveyed a verbal message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, from his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, when King Fahd received him yesterday. This message concerned bilateral relations, Arab issues, and the current situation in the Gulf region.

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation praised the strong ties between Morocco and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He noted that the fourth session of the joint Moroccan-Saudi committee, which finished its proceedings yesterday evening, was an opportunity to

deepen these relations and to exchange views on all political issues. It was also a chance to open new channels of cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

Mr Abdellatif Filali pointed out that the joint committee had agreed to establish a joint Saudi-Moroccan company for agricultural, economic, and commercial investments. This enterprise will enable businessmen in the two countries to cooperate with each other and to become acquainted with the possibilities and the opportunities for investment. He stated that the final meeting for organizing the company and defining its capital will take place in Morocco in January or February. Minister Abdelattif also indicated that his visit to the Saudi Kingdom had enabled him to hold talks with a number of Saudi officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

Border Clashes Reviewed With PDRY Officials

JN160748 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a PDRY military delegation has visited the YAR in the past few days. During its visit, the delegation discussed relations between the two parts of Yemen.

According to an informed source, the talks centered on containing the military skirmishes that recently took place on the border between the two countries. The talks also concerned taking measures to prevent a future recurrence of these clashes. The delegation raised the issue of allowing supporters of former PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to carry out armed activity against the PDRY, particularly since the PDRY Government recently arrested a group of Muhammad's supporters who were attempting to infiltrate into Aden.

Economic Talks With Soviet Delegation Conclude

JN152153 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The second session of the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation concluded at the conference hall of the Central Department for Planning in Sanaa this evening. These talks were held in Sanaa from 12 to 15 December under Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of planning, head of the Central Department for Planning, and member of the Standing Committee; and Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

The minutes of the meetings were signed by Dr al-'Attar and the head of the Soviet delegation. These minutes stipulate expanding the spheres of economic and technical cooperation in agriculture and irrigation. The Soviet side agreed to produce engineering designs and to continue economic feasibility studies for the (?Ma'rib) Dam, as well as for a number of small irrigation dams. It also agreed to conduct a study of the Anis basin. The Soviet side further agreed in principle to help establish a center for maintaining agricultural equipment and spare parts. It agreed to participate in modernizing Al-Firdaws farm, to draw up a general plan for utilizing water resources in our country, to prevent the movement of sand dunes, and to conduct agricultural research.

The minutes also stipulate opening new fields of cooperation in ports, the electrification of rural areas, training local cadres in the Republic and in the Soviet Union, and dispatching experts and physicians within the framework of the cultural and scientific cooperation program. This is in addition to cooperation in the building of the Al-'Udayn-al-Jarrah and [words indistinct] roads.

The minutes also include discussing economic and technicial cooperation on projects currently underway. It has been agreed in principle to boost the production of the Bajil cement factory to 500,000 tonnes a year in the first stage and to 1 million tonnes a year in the future.

The two sides expressed in the minutes their satisfaction with the [words indistinct] within the framework of joint cooperation between the two friendly countries.

After signing the minutes, Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar expressed satisfaction with the progress of the talks and the atmosphere of friendship that had prevailed in the meetings of the committee. He referred to the strength of relations of cooperation between our country and the friendly Soviet Union. He also expressed his hope that bilateral cooperation, which has witnessed great progress over the past 10 years, will expand further.

Osadchuk expressed his happiness and that of the members of the Soviet side for the admirable arrangements and organization that our country had provided for the meetings of the second session of the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation. He praised the generous hospitality and welcome he and the members of the Soviet side had received in our country. Osadchuk then affirmed that the success of this session is attributed to the great understanding between the two sides and to the seriousness that dominated the work of the session for the sake of promoting bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile, it has been agreed to hold the third session of the committee next year in Moscow.

Reportage on Visit by USSR's Mikhail Sytenko

Holds News Conference

JN161925 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1822 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (WAKH)—The Soviet Union has reiterated its resolve to continue to promote Iraq's defensive capabilities and to enable it to confront any future aggression by Iran.

Answering a question on the possibilities of a new Iranian offensive, Mikhail Sytenko, the Soviet leadership's special envoy, said: The Soviet experts in Iraq are working hand in hand with the Iraqis to safeguard the interests of the Republic of Iraq. However, he did not give further details in this regard.

At a news conference at the Soviet ambassador's residence today, Sytenko refuted recent Western mass media reports on the existence of tension in the relations between Baghdad and Moscow. These reports said that the tension was such that the Iraqi leadership had begun to think of abrogating the treaty signed with the Soviet Union 15 years ago. Sytenko asserted: Reports and statements in this regard are baseless. Some mass media, without conscience, have distorted these relations.

Envoy Sytenko is an ambassador at large on special assignment at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He arrived in Baghdad Sunday evening to acquaint Iraqi officials with the results of the talks which Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington last week. He also met yesterday with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for the same purpose.

The Soviet envoy stressed that in accordance with the treaty of friendship and cooperation, his country provides support for Iraq in all fields, including the promotion of Iraq's defensive capability.

He said that his talks with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had manifested the desire of both sides to promote relations of friendship between Moscow and Baghdad.

He reiterated his country's adherence to the stand calling for continuing work to implement Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war. He said: The Soviet Union would have taken another stand had Iran announced complete rejection of the resolution in letter and spirit.

He added that Moscow's adherence to this stand does not mean that the Soviet Union opposes adopting a subsequent resolution. However, the Soviet envoy stressed the need to do all that is possible to implement Resolution 598, which was issued by the UN Security Council last July.

He explained that the Soviet Union does not want an unbalanced and hasty resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran. He asserted: Any hastiness in adopting other resolutions will not end the war.

Sytenko reiterated his country's stand, which calls for withdrawing military fleets from the Arabian Gulf waters and forming a UN force. He added that the formation of such a force will have the full confidence of all and contribute toward protecting martitime navigation in the Gulf. He noted that it could also contribute toward securing and safeguarding the peace of all states of the region.

Iraq had criticized this call and stressed that the military naval fleets currently stationed in the Gulf came to the Arabian Gulf waters because of the continuation of the war and Iran's continued aggressions against Iraq and the Gulf states.

In a lengthy commentary published in an earlier issue, the AL-THAWRAH newspaper said that work must first focus on ending the war and that the issue of ending the military presence in the Gulf can then begin.

The Soviet leadership's envoy stated that the U.S. delegation at the Washington summit was not ready for a clear-cut and accurate discussion of regional conflicts, including the Iraq-Iran war. He added that it was agreed that discussions and consultations on these issues will be continued at a later time. He pointed out that the reason for this postponement is the conviction that no solution can be imposed on the parties to regional conflicts from the outside or by any other state. This discussion was also postponed due to the belief that a solution is achievable by taking into account the interests of the parties to the conflict and the countries concerned.

The Soviet envoy accused the United States of increasing tension in the region by sending so many naval vessels there "that they cannot turn around in the Gulf." He added that since the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, the United States has sent a large naval force to the Gulf region in violation of the content of the said resolution. He went on to state that such a large military presence is not conducive to bringing about stability in the region and that this had prompted the Soviet Union to call for withdrawing the fleets.

Sytenko said that his country's relations with Iran are much lower than the level they had attained at the beginning of the 1980's. He noted that the volume of bilateral trade was approximately $1 billion in 1980 while it amounted to only $76 million this year. He added that these figures enable one to make comparisons. However, Sytenko said that his country's policy seeks to establish strong relations with all states. He added that this does not mean "we are improving our relations with this state at the expense of our relations with the other state."

Sytenko's 2 and 1/2-hour press conference was attended by a large number of news agency, radio, newspaper, and magazine correspondents. During his press conference, the Soviet envoy quoted from the text of the conversation between Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Iranian ambassador in Tehran [as received] a few days ago. He said the main objective of Soviet policy right now is ending this senseless war. The Soviet Union has shown its stand on Iran's insistence to continue the war and on its rejection of efforts to find an end to this conflict, he added.

The Soviet envoy is scheduled to leave for Algiers on the first leg of a tour that will also include Libya to acquaint officials there on results of the Washington summit.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN162021 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received Mikhail Sytenko, the Soviet leadership's envoy. Sytenko acquainted the president leader with the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, which dealt with the elimination of some nuclear weapons and the reduction of others. It also dealt with disarmament issues and ways to ease international tension. Moreover, the summit considered regional disputes and issues, including the Iraq-Iran war and ways to implement UN Resolution 598.

President leader Saddam Husayn affirmed to the Soviet envoy Iraq's stand in supporting the course of easing international tension, achieving disarmament, and creating an international atmosphere boosting the chances for world peace. His excellency also affirmed that such an atmosphere will help to solve mankind's many problems, including the ongoing wars and disputes.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to implement UN Resolution 598 after it has been verified that Iran has rejected the resolution and is resorting to maneuvers, procrastination, and distortions of the resolution. The president leader affirmed that a great responsibility rests on the two superpowers and the other permanent UN Security Council members in stressing the UN Security Council's role in implementing this binding resolution, which was unanimously adopted 5 months ago.

His excellency also affirmed that achieving peace in the region consolidates a sound approach toward creating a new international atmosphere aspired to by the world's peoples. He said that the Gorbachev-Reagan summit has contributed to achieving a constructive beginning for this atmosphere.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Departs After 4-Day Visit

JN170929 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0633 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador for special assignments and envoy of the Soviet leadership, left Baghdad at dawn today at the end of an official 4-day visit. President Saddam Husayn received the Soviet envoy yesterday. He stressed the international responsibility for a comprehensive implementation of Resolution 598, which is a binding resolution, to end the Iraq-Iran war. The Soviet envoy briefed President Saddam Husayn and a number of officials on the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting held recently in Washington.

Ramadan Views Relations With USSR, Syria

JN170724 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 87 p 1,5

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—A senior Iraqi official said on Wednesday that Baghdad viewed any attempt to modify the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire plan in the Gulf war as "an encroachment upon Iraq's national interests" and that Iraq was "more prepared than ever" to repel a new Iranian offensive.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan reiterated Iraq's rejection of any change in the "essence or chronological order" of the steps contained in Security Council Resolution 598 which called for an immediate ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

"We believe that Resolution 598 is distinguished, clear and just. It guarantees the rights of the parties involved," he told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview. "We also believe that the chronological order of the steps contained in the resolution to be coherent and therefore we shall oppose any attempt to modify the resolution or change its essence," he added.

While Iraq seeks the implementation of Resolution 598, Iran calls for setting up an inquiry to name Iraq as "the aggressor" prior to a ceasefire.

"Iraq has no intentions to accept any change in the essence of the chronology of the resolution and therefore considers any such attempt an encroachment upon Iraq's national rights," Mr. Ramadan said.

Mr. Ramadan's reiteration of Iraq's rejection of any move to modify Resolution 598 comes amid reports that there are moves within the Security Council to alter some of the provisions of the U.N. document and that these moves did in fact enjoy tacit Soviet support. No details were available on the exact nature of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Ramadan, who was speaking to the JORDAN TIMES prior to his return to Baghdad following a three-day visit to Amman, said his country was not convinced of any argument which called for giving Tehran another chance to make its final position on the resolution.

"We are not convinced with such arguments because any further procrastination will be in favour of Iran," he said. Moscow has so far been reluctant in pushing for a second Security Council resolution that will impose sanctions including an arms embargo, against the party which refuses the U.N. ceasefire. The Soviet Union has said it favours further efforts by the U.N. secretary-general to convince Iran to accept 598.

Mr. Ramadan said Tehran's statements and the massing of Iranian troops and preparations for a new offensive on the front reflected a clear Iranian "rejection of the resolution."

Mr Ramadan explained that differences in the positions of Moscow and Baghdad did not mean that Iraq suspected Moscow's sincerity in efforts to end the seven-year old war. "We do not cast doubts on Moscow's desire to stop the war or on the Soviet commitment to Resolution 598," he said. But he said Moscow's position reflected the fact that the situations in the Gulf and efforts to end the war had become "part of the conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States."

"But unfortunately, this conflict is hurting us in Iraq," he said.

Mr. Ramadan said Baghdad had officially conveyed its displeasure with the Soviet position and Moscow had reaffirmed its commitment to Resolution 598, its support [for] Iraq's positive stand on the U.N. ceasefire plan and rejection of any Iranian aggression against Iraq.

But he said that there had not been any indication so far of a change in the Soviet position. "Judging by what we learned about the Washington summit between the Soviet and American leaders and according to our information, there has not been a change in Moscow's position," he said.

A Soviet envoy has met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad this week but Mr. Ramadan said that he was not informed yet about the results of the talks.

Mr. Ramadan, who is also the commander-in-chief of Iraq's Popular Army, said that his country was on full alert and "more prepared" to repel any Iranian offensive. He said that Baghdad expected Iran to launch a big offensive in the near future but "Tehran will incur big losses in the process."

"This time the offensive will break Tehran's back," he warned.

Mr. Ramadan stressed that Baghdad's relations with both Moscow and Washington "were normal."

The Iraqi official, however, reiterated his country's refusal to accept any delay in imposing sanctions on Tehran and called for a new resolution that will impose economic sanctions and arms embargo on Iran.

Mr. Ramadan also implied that Iraq was also seeking measures entailing an international blockade against Iranian ports and strict steps including an inspection of all ships and cargoes destined for Iran to ensure that no arms shipments reach the Iranians.

The Iraqi leader expressed hope and confidence that the Security Council would implement its resolutions and impose sanctions if need be. "The status of the international organisation and its future depend on its ability to implement Resolution 598 which is the first of its kind on regional problems in terms of strength and essence," Mr. Ramadan warned.

He said that the consensus achieved by the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman boosted and enhanced the Arabs' international efforts to implement the resolution. "After all, it is no longer an Iraqi endorsement of Resolution 598 in toto, but it is now an Arab endorsement of the resolution....and that has strengthened the Iraqi and Arab standings." He said the Amman summit resolutions had raised the "already high morales" of the Iraqi people and Army and expected that the unified Arab stand would deepen internal division in Tehran.

According to the Iraqi official, divisions between supporters of Parliament Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Montazeri, the designated successor to Ayatollah Khomeyni, were still continuing. But he expected Hashemi-Rafsanjani's wing to be "part of an international equation" to win the upper hand in Tehran.

Mr. Ramadan disclosed that there had been "no progress" in Iraqi-Syrian relations since the reconciliation between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Amman last month. "Things have not developed since the Amman summit and so far progress has been confined [to] an end to mutual media attacks," he said.

He explained that differences between Iraq and Syria "run deep" and were "very complex" and consequently a normalisation of relations would take some time to materialise.

Returns From Amman Meetings

JN161635 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad today following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he led the Iraqi side to the meetings of the third session of the Higher Iraqi-Jordanian Joint Committee.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he had conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn. He also conveyed the pride and appreciation of the Iraqi leadership and people for Jordan's pan-Arab support of Iraq, which is defending its sovereignty and the Arab nation's dignity. He also expressed profound satisfaction with the developed relations between the two fraternal countries.

The first deputy prime minister added: We have discussed bilateral relations with His Majesty King Husayn and the officials in charge of fraternal relations. We affirmed serious concern about boosting and expanding these relations in all fields. We also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and Arab issues. The necessity to implement the resolutions of the Amman extraordinary summit to consolidate Arab solidarity and the unity of stands against the Arabs' enemies was stressed.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said: We have affirmed to our Jordanian brothers the Iraqi Armed Forces' high preparedness along the front to annihilate any aggression regardless of its size and location.

The first deputy prime minister described the results of the meetings of the higher joint committee as important and distinguished. He said that they have laid the ground for economic integration between the two brotherly countries through the agreement to increase the volume of trade by 15 percent compared to that of 1987 and to expand cooperation in establishing joint projects in industry, oil, transportation, and solar energy. He pointed out that the two sides worked as one team for one objective to achieve bilateral economic integration.

Concluding his statement, the first deputy prime minister said His Majesty King Husayn had asked him to convey his greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn. He also asked him to convey Jordan's support—king, government, and people—for Iraq in its defense of its sovereignty against the Iranian aggressors, as well as Jordan's pride in Iraq's heroic and courageous stand which is considered a glory and victory for all Arabs.

Accompanying Taha Yasin Ramadan on the visit were Transportation and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah, Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, and the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Industry.

Receiving the first deputy prime minister were Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; RCC member Hasan 'Ali; and a number of ministers.

'Aziz Confers With Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad

JN161657 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, today. During their meeting, they reviewed the overwhelming uprising that is currently sweeping the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as the Palestinian masses' heroic confrontations of the Zionist occupation forces.

Tariq 'Aziz and Yasir 'Arafat discussed the latest developments in the region and ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war which the Iranian regime has refused to implement.

The meeting was attended by RCC member Sa'dun Shakir, the deputy official in charge of the Liberation Movements Office of the RCC, and the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Cypriot Cargo Ship Hit

JN161335 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Lloyds maritime insurance sources confirmed today that the Cypriot cargo ship ("Mimi") was hit by an Iraqi missile at midnight last night off the Iranian port of Bushehr, north of the Arabian Gulf. Lloyds said the cargo tonnage of the ("Mimi") is 16,246 tonnes.

'New Losses' Inflicted

JN161527 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1507 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Through their activities on the battlefields today, the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted on the Iranian forces new losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA today that the Iraqi forces had killed two enemy personnel; destroyed two vehicles, five observation posts, four infantry positions, one launcher, two machineguns, one gun, and one machinegun emplacement; and injured a number of enemy soldiers.

Communique No 2,952

JN161813 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,952 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces daily affirm their capability and overwhelming superiority over our renegade enemies through their heroic activities. They inflicted the following losses on the despotic Khomeyniites last night and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force will continue to be the lofty symbol and power against the criminal Iranian regime. The pillars of backwardness, ignorance, and aggression will continue to collapse under the painful blows of our

Air Force. To prevent this reckless regime from using its oil resources to carry out aggressions against our country, the following missions were carried out with God's care:

A. At 2400 [2100 GMT] last night, our heroic pilots scored an accurate and effective hit on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast.

B. At 0945 this morning, our planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

C. At 1245, our daring planes raided a third large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate and effective blow.

After carrying out their missions our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. An enemy scoundrel was killed and one vehicle loaded with personnel was destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. One observation post and two infantry positions were destroyed and one enemy soldier was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Two infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan spotted 15 of the scoundrels. It opened fire on them. Most of them were killed and the remainder fled. Elsewhere in the same sector one of our units destroyed four posts and killed their occupants.

6. One enemy vehicle was destroyed and one 40-mm launcher, one (BKC) machinegun, and two rifles abandoned by the enemy were found in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. One SPG-9 gun and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. The criminal enemy shelled the (Bimalik) residential complex with long-range artillery. The shelling martyred two civilians. Mercy and forgiveness for our two martyrs.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 December 1987

Iranian Oil Tanker Hit

JN171117 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1053 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] London, 17 Dec (INA)—The British Lloyds Insurance Company has confirmed that the Iranian oil tanker "Taftan" [name as received] was hit by a missile fired by an Iraqi warplane at 0645 GMT yesterday while sailing near the Iranian coast.

In a cable to the INA office in London this morning, Lloyds said the "Taftan" was hit by the Iraqi missile in the ship's No 1 oil reservoir while sailing in the eastern Arabian Gulf. The tanker's empty weight is 141,883 tonnes. It was built in 1973 and is owned by the Iranian Tanker Company.

Yesterday afternoon, Lloyds confirmed that Iraqi fighters at noon yesterday hit the Cypriot ship "Mimi-1M" [name as received] for the second time, setting it ablaze. An Iraqi military spokesman yesterday said that Iraqi warplanes had dealt accurate and effective blows to two maritime targets, one of which was very large, near the Iranian coast.

26 Iranians Killed

JN171506 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—During their activities on the battlefields, the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted new losses on the Iranian regime's forces in personnel, equipment, and weapons. A military spokesman told INA today that the Iraqi forces killed 26 Iranians, injured 8 others, destroyed 6 infantry positions, 9 posts, and 1 tank, set ablaze and destroyed 1 vehicle, damaged 4 vehicles, destroyed 1 machinegun emplacement, and blew up 1 ammunition dump.

Washington Envoy on U.S. Stand on Territories
TA162117 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Telephone interview with Moshe Arad, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, by Ya'el Dan and Yaron Wilensky—live]

[Text] [Wilensky] Moshe Arad, our ambassador in Washington, good evening.

[Arad] Shalom and good evenning to you, too.

[Wilensky] We would first like to ask you for an initial reaction to Richard Murphy's short declaration yesterday, in which he opposed Israel's policy in the territories, calling it a policy of unacceptable norms. What is your response to this declaration?

[Arad] Our reaction to this declaration, and we said as much to Mr Murphy personally, is that the Government of Israel and the IDF are making every effort to maintain law and order in the territories. The decision on the kind of measures required to do so is up to our discretion and is made according to the circumstances.

[Wilensky] Commentators have noted that Murphy's declaration is unprecedented. Were you surprised by the fact that the U.S. Administration has adopted such a strong position on such a sensitive issue?

[Arad] It appears to me that Mr Murphy's remarks made bigger waves in Israel than here. The U.S. position on the territories is not new, and it seems to me that the issue is not Mr Murphy's declarations, but the situation itself.

[Dan] What significance should we attribute to this U.S. reprimand? Could it herald real pressure on Israel to change its policy?

[Arad] It seems to me that the use of the expression reprimand is incorrect. No official protest was presented. We are not about to be scolded and no rebukes are expected.

[Wilensky] In that case, how would you describe the U.S. media's portrayal of current events in the territories?

[Arad] I must admit that the picture presented by the U.S. media is unfavorable. The videoclips shown on television newscasts focus on demonstrators, stonethrowers, and the reaction of the security forces. Naturally, all these shots do nothing to enhance Israel's image. But this is a reflection of reality and there is no doubt that as often happens in such cases, things seem far worse from a distance than is actually true. Still, this is the picture which, unfortunately, U.S. television has been screening over the last few days.

[Dan] Mr Arad, is this merely the effect of the pictures or do the people who report for the media also play a part in this?

[Arad] I must say that so far the U.S. media has certainly expressed itself with restraint. Meanwhile, we also point out that the Israeli Government, naturally, is interested in reaching a settlement at the negotiating table, but not as a result of demonstrations, acts of terror, or violations of the public order.

[Wilensky] And as all this is happening, another no less important event is taking place; namely, the defense minister's visit to Washington and the signing of the memorandum of understanding. How would you sum up this visit?

[Arad] The defense minister winds up his visit to Washington today with the signing of the memorandum of understanding, which grants Israel the status of senior non-NATO ally. This status has been given to only very few countries, and it will enable us to expand defense and strategic cooperation with the United States. The defense minister also held a discussion on the implementation of the U.S. commitments made following the decision to terminate the Lavi project. It appears to me that significant progress has been made in this sphere as a result of the defense minister's visit.

[Wilesnky] Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador in Washington, we thank you very much.

[Arad] I thank you very much. Good evening.

Amman Summit Anti-Israeli Resolutions Revealed
TA171220 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Amman summit has adopted several anti-Israeli resolutions, but they were not included in the summit's concluding statement because of a decision not to publicize them.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hinted at this in recent talks, emphasizing that the satisfaction expressed by Labor Party leaders over the summit resolutions is unwarranted.

Among the secret resolutions is one reaffirming all the decisions made at previous Arab summits, including the Fes resolutions which Husayn tried to exclude from the Amman resolutions because they emphasize the PLO's status, reject a separate peace agreement with Israel, and strive for strategic parity with it.

Foreign Ministry sources, however, said that the secret decisions should not be given exaggerated significance, because the PLO and Syria have not hidden their disappointment with the Amman resolutions on Israel and the

peace process. Moreover, King Husayn chose to emphasize his commitment to peace negotiations with Israel under the auspices of an international conference and with the participation of elements that recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Syria Begins Construction on Al-Yarmuk Dam

TA170601 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Syria has begun building a large dam on the Al-Yarmuk River that leads into the Jordan River. The dam would prevent Israel's usage of some 25 million cubic meters of water. The Voice of Israel's political reporter says Syria and Jordan recently signed an agreement over the exploitation of the Al-Yarmuk water. The accord did not mention Israel. Recent studies revealed that Israel would suffer severe economic difficulties as a result of the new dam.

Shamir Remarks on Issue

TA171122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says that Israel is intensively dealing with the Al-Yarmuk water issue. He said that contacts on this issue are under way, but refused to give any details. The prime minister made these remarks in an interview to the Voice of Israel in Arabic. He noted that the water issue is important to Syria, Jordan, and Israel, and that Israel will see to its vital interests. Mr Shamir made these remarks in reaction to a report on the Voice of Israel this morning.

U.S. Support Assured

JN170812 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Our political correspondent reports that the Inner Cabinet recently discussed the dimensions of the Syrian plan to build the Al-Kabir Dam on the Al-Yarmuk River on which work began recently. The correspondent says that upon the completion of this dam, Israel would be deprived of 25 million cubic meters of water annually.

Our correspondent adds that the United States has been informed of the effects of the Yarmuk dam on Israel and that Washington has expressed its support for the Israeli position on this subject.

Soviet Motives on Consular Group Analyzed

TA161453 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Dec 87 p A10

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "A Soviet Foothold in Israel"—passages in boldface as published]

[Text] A few days ago a Soviet spokesman reiterated that if Israel asks Moscow to send a "consular delegation" similar to the Soviet delegation which has been in Israel since 14 July, the request would be turned down because "there are no Israeli permanent residents or Israeli property in the Soviet Union."

Was Moscow thus trying to foretell Jerusalem's reaction to a Soviet request to once again extend the visas of the "consular delegation" members, without making this extension conditional on a reciprocal visit to the Soviet capital by an Israeli delegation?

Initially, the Soviets said that they would wind up their affairs by the end of their 3-month stay. However, 3 days before the visas expired, Yevgeniy Antipov—who is still considered the head of the delegation in Israel despite the fact that he is in Moscow—asked the Foreign Ministry to extend the visas. His explanation was that they need more time to finish "the affairs we have been dealing with" and that **"there is a lot of work."**

To the best of Israel's knowledge, the Soviet "consular delegation" is not overworked. But out of a desire to demonstrate goodwill to the Soviets, Shim'on Peres did not dwell on the fine points and acceded to the request. The visas were extended by another 3 months. Interestingly enough, in his approach to the Foreign Ministry Antipov added that he hoped a **positive** reply to his request would be given **shortly** or at least **"before the meetings of the foreign ministers** (Shultz-Shevardnadze)."

Antipov's approach clarified what had been known even earlier: that it is not the "workload" involved in the handling of Soviet property and passports that dictates the needs of the delegation, but rather the wish to maintain a bizarre consular foothold in Israel. This foothold can then be described to the United States and the West as a kind of framework for the relations developing with Israel, and can be presented to the Arab world as a mere technical framework.

Indeed, in his talks with U.S. Administration officials during Gorbachev's visit to the United States, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze pointed to the presence in Israel of this "consular delegation" each time the question was raised of Moscow's resumption of relations with Israel. Some time earlier Shevardnadze had told Latin American statesmen that the Soviet delegation in Israel served what he termed **"a political function."**

The position emerging from a debate held a few days ago in Jerusalem was that the visas of the consular delegation members, which are due to expire in mid-January, should not be renewed unless the Soviet Union agrees to allow an Israeli delegation to visit Moscow. The purpose of this visit would be to handle Israeli affairs (such as, for example, checking the Israeli Embassy building which has been locked and empty for the past 20 years, ever since the Soviet Union broke relations with Israel in 1967).

If the original purpose of sending a "technical delegation" to Israel was to help the Soviets demonstrate **openness**, improve their **image**, and prove that they also have a "dialogue" with Israel in Gorbachev's era, then this objective has been achieved. The fact is that each time Shevardnadze noted the presence of the delegation in Israel, his interlocutors, who were prodding him to resume relations with Israel, shut up.

Given the current mood in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, it may support the position of the Prime Minister's Office that there is no longer any sense in letting the Soviets "get the best of both worlds." The Soviets should not be allowed to prevent a reciprocal visit by an Israeli delegation, worsen its attitude toward Israel in the Soviet media **"by using obvious anti-Semitic terms"** (as stated in an evaluation paper drafted by the Foreign Ministry), and at the same time, keep a delegation here to be used to create the illusion that it is holding a dialogue with Israel and maintaining "normal" relations with it.

Israel has given up enough. Initially, in exchange for its agreement to issue visas to the Soviet delegation members, Israel demanded simultaneous reciprocity. Later, the question of simultaneity was dropped despite the fact that according to the understanding reached by Me'ir Rosenne, the former Israeli ambassador to the United States, an Israeli delegation was supposed to depart for the Soviet Union.

Despite the blunt reaction of Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov that Israel's understanding was "unfounded", Jerusalem softened its position and actually no longer made the granting of visas conditional on the fulfillment of any specific condition. "It was understood," so it was said, that if Israel asked at some point for visas for its delegation, its request would be complied with.

The "hints" came a few days ago from a Soviet spokesman saying that there are no grounds for such a reciprocal visit.

Some time ago, Yevgeniy Antipov granted an interview to IZVESTIYA in which he voiced **positive appreciation** regarding the "attitude of the Israeli authorities" toward the Soviet delegation. Antipov drew a distinction between "the goodwill and interest" Israel evinced toward the delegation, and the hostile attacks of "hooligans, members of rightist-Zionist organizations, **who are not of Israeli extraction**" (meaning, apparently, Soviet-born people as well as Israeli activists for the cause of Jewish immigration which have been staging demonstrations near the building housing the Soviet delegation).

The question, however, is not "the goodwill and interest" evinced by the Israelis, as Antipov himself put it. This was proven beyond the shadow of a doubt. The question is: What about "the goodwill and interest" of the Soviet authorities?

The test will come next month when the visas of Antipov and his colleagues expire. If they ask for an extension but do not agree to a reciprocal visit by an Israeli delegation in Moscow, or if they do not ask for a third extension because they know they will be turned down, the conclusion will remain the same. Even in Gorbachev's era, for the time being "glasnost" does not apply to Israel. Moscow should also be put to the test in this respect as well.

Herzog 'Furious' at 'Distorted' BBC Interview

TA171050 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Text] London—President Hayim Herzog, who concluded his visit to the UK yesterday with a Downing Street luncheon hosted by Premier Thatcher, is understood to be furious with the BBC for "tearing up and distorting" a television interview in which he discussed the factors behind the violence in the territories.

According to Israeli sources, the president was given an assurance that the interview, conducted by Donald MacCormick for BBC2's authoritative Newsnight Programme, would not be cut or tampered with. It was cut, however, and Herzog is said to be fuming because he feels that his explanations for the unrest in Gaza and the West Bank were distorted in the process.

A BBC spokesman said last night that "no promises" had been made to Herzog regarding editing.

Peres Visits Brazil, Meets With Officials

For reports on Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister's visit to Brasilia, including talks held with Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre, and the contents of a joint communique, see the Brazil subdivision of the South America division of the 16 December Latin America DAILY REPORT.

South Lebanese Shi'ites Oust Hizballah Members

TA170748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Yesterday, residents of the Shi'ite village of Bra'shit in southern Lebanon ousted approximately 20 Hizballah members who had been staying in the village. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Hizballah members took over a school in the center of the village, and from there they conducted exchanges of fire with South Lebanese Army soldiers. At the time, 250 students were in the school. The village leaders clarified to Amal headquarters and to the Hizballah clerics in the region that they will fire at any terrorist who tries to enter the village and operate from there.

IDF-SLA Operations in South Lebanon Reported

Bomb Injures IDF Soldier

TA161758 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] An IDF soldier was wounded by an explosion of a bomb planted on the shoulders of the road in the central sector of southern Lebanon. Mortar fire was heard directed at South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers at the same time.

IDF Kills 6 'Terrorists'

TA171047 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Six terrorists were killed last night by an IDF force during an attempt to attack an SLA post in the eastern sector of the security zone. Our forces did not sustain any casualties.

Last night after midnight, terrorists attacked an SLA post in the eastern sector, northwest of Hasbayya. The SLA soldiers returned heavy fire toward the assailants and repelled the attack. An IDF unit that was in the area of the incident intervened and fired at the terrorists, killing six.

The terrorists' personal firearms, RPG shells, katyusha launchers, and many other weapons were found in the area of the incident.

SLA Fires at UNIFIL

TA171101 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Last night personnel in SLA positions fired 13 times at UNIFIL posts in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL headquarters reported this to our correspondent Hayim Hecht. The SLA headquarters' reaction is that the fire was directed at terrorist positions.

Egyptian Envoy, Foreign Ministry Discuss Unrest

TA161844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, met today with Foreign Ministry leaders. He reported that in Egypt's opinion, Israel has not adopted the most appropriate measures in its activity in the refugee camps in the territories.

Disturbances Continue in Territories, Jerusalem

Galilee, Students Protests

TA161554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] In Nazareth and several Arab settlements in the Galilee, there were protest rallies and demonstrations today over events taking place in the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the demonstrations were organized by the HADASH. Nazareth police arrested three people and released them after a short interrogation. The Nazareth municipal council and the head of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils called on the IDF to leave the territories and put an end to the bloodshed.

At Tel Aviv University, leftist and rightist students demonstrated over the events in the territories.

7 Arabs Detained 16 Dec

TA161856 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] In East Jerusalem, seven Arabs were arrested today during disturbances. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomo Stein reports:

The disturbances occurred mainly this morning. At 0740 an Arab youth, assisted by several of his friends, hurled stones at passing cars in Qalandiyah, north of Jerusalem.

Later, stones were hurled at a military van and a fire engine that were driving along Salah al-Din Street near the District Court building in East Jerusalem.

The road leading to Abu-Tur neighborhood on the Mount of Olives near the Al-Maqasid Hospital was blocked with stones. A police force fired two shots in the air to disperse the demonstrators.

Near Herod's Gate, masked young men stoned passing cars and were dispersed with tear gas. Near the Jabir al-Muqaddam Boys School in the Abu-Tur neighborhood, stones were hurled and several youths tried to set tires on fire.

An Israeli bus was stoned near the mosque in Shu'fat. Palestinian flags were hoisted, at Al-Quds School near the Coca Cola Junction, but the police removed them. In the Old City, there was an almost total commercial and school strike. Even many of the local inhabitants do not know the reason for all the uproar and strikes.

Nazareth Calls for Strike

TA162001 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The Nazareth Municipality has called on the Arab residents in Israel to strike in protest against the situation in the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the decision to do so was made in a special session of the municipality convened this evening. In its decision, the municipality has also called for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

Telegrams were sent on behalf of the Galilee village of Yirka to the defense and police affairs ministers, calling on them to prevent the publication of reports which distort the role played by Druze soldiers and border policemen who are engaged in policing duties in the territories.

Arab Protest at Shamir House

TA162020 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The police used tear gas a short while ago to disperse a demonstration by several dozen Arabs who congregated near the prime minister's residence on Balfour Street in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the demonstrators wished to protest the policy of the prime minister and the police toward their Arab brethren. They refused to evacuate the site or to hold their demonstration farther away from the prime minister's residence. The police then used tear gas and carried out some detentions.

Unrest in Jerusalem 17 Dec

TA170554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Incidents were reported again last night in East and northern Jerusalem. No one was injured. Empty bottles were thrown at a Border Police patrol near the Old City. In another incident, two No 25 buses were stoned as they were going through the Shu'fat neighborhood. One of the buses was damaged, but again no one was injured.

Gaza Resident Dies of Wounds

TA170541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The Gaza resident who stabbed an Israeli soldier yesterday in Rafah has died of his wounds. The man had been hospitalized in an Ashqelon hospital. Another wounded Gaza resident was operated on last night at the same hospital, and two others are still hospitalized.

Strike Continues in Jerusalem

TA170834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The riots in East and North Jerusalem are continuing this morning. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the school and commercial strike in East Jerusalem is continuing for the 3d consecutive day. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown near Rockfeller Garden, but they did not explode. In the Shu'fat region north of the city, stones were thrown at two No 25 buses and at passing cars, but there were no injuries. Police forces dispersed a gathering of approximately 200 female students at the Al-Haqawati school in East Jerusalem. Stones were also thrown in the Giv'at Haradar area and in Mishkenot Haro'im in the Armon Hanaziv neighborhood, where the road was blocked by burning tires. One suspect was detained.

Curfew Reimposed on Balatah

TA171227 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent Zohar Melamed reports that the curfew on the Balatah refugee camp was reimposed after youths disrupted order this morning by holding a march. A partial commercial strike is under way in Ramallah and Al-Birah. During the morning there were also disturbances in the area by local residents.

Unrest in Ramallah, Gaza

TA171033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] There were disturbances this morning in the area of Ramallah and Al-Birah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that roadblocks were erected in these towns and Israeli vehicles were stoned. Disturbances are continuing in the Gaza Strip as well. In Gaza itself, roadblocks were erected on Salah-al-Din Street, but the security forces removed them. There were gatherings in the Jabalyah refugee camp, but they were dispersed.

Balatah Delegation Meet With Druze Leader

TA161850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] A delegation from the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus early this evening met with Shaykh Amin Tarif, the spiritual leader of the Druze community, in the village of Julis in the Galilee. The delegation protested to him the stiff conduct by border policemen of the Druze community toward the Balatah inhabitants. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Shaykh Tarif promised to look into the matter, but noted that the border policemen are carrying out the instructions they are given.

'Political Situation' Cause of Gaza Unrest

TA161932 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] A delegation of prominent Gaza business and professional men met with senior Army officers and Civil Administration officials. They gave a written message to General Yitzhaq Mordekhay [commander of the Southern Command] citing the political situation as the cause of the current violence. Reporter Steve Rodan notes this is the first time that local leaders in Gaza have suggested to the Israeli authorities that their problems are political. Afterwards, Rodan spoke to a member of the delegation, Dr Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shafi] The root of this situation is the ongoing confrontation between the people and the occupation since 1967 and the fact that Israel is engrossed in a program that aims to entrench the Israelis here. They are making settlements; they are taking land; they are bringing settlers—they are doing everything to undermine the continued presence of the local people here.

[Rodan] Are families in the Gaza Strip being hurt by the fact that many cannot go to work in Israel, they have been prevented from doing that?

[Al-Shafi] Certainly, many people are being held. What, you think that people tolerate all this hardship and sacrifices for nothing? This is just [word indistinct] for the sake of making problems? There are deep causes and (?wider) causes than this but your people don't want to understand this. [end recording]

Leaders, Media Comment on Unrest in Territories

Rabin on Talks With Jordan

JN162043 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reiterated that Israel is determined to end all the delusions harbored by certain elements that they can accomplish things by causing trouble and perpetrating acts of terrorism. He added that Israel will not back down on its stand which stipulates that peace in the region is only achievable through negotiations. Therefore, Israel, he added, will continue its military rule and its civil administration in the territories and will also preserve the peace and order there until peace is achieved. He went on to say that the proposal to deploy a UN force in the territories does not exist.

Rabin's statements were made in a television interview held with the U.S. NBC network in Washington this afternoon. He said that the latest incidents in the territories are a cause of regret and pain for both sides. He expressed the hope that the situation will stabilize within 1 week.

In reply to a question, the defense minister said that Jordan may enter into direct peace negotiations with Israel sooner than expected.

IDF Commander, Shamir Comment

TA161722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, has said that the security forces are in full control of the situation in the Gaza Strip. Speaking to our correspondent, Gen Mordekhay emphasized that the instructions on opening fire are extremely strict, and that in the course of the riots the soldiers have fired only when their lives were in jeopardy.

The prime minister believes that we are in the midst of a process in which tempers in the territories are gradually calming down. He added that the U.S. ambassador did not convey any message or protest on the situation in the territories. Shamir said that he had made it clear to the U.S. ambassador that the IDF is trying to bring about tranquility in the territories, but unfortunately sometimes this process claims some lives. The responsibility for the loss of lives rests with the leaders of the terrorist organizations, who were the ones to initially dispatch the rioters. Mr Shamir was talking to our correspondent Mikha'el Miro during the opening ceremony of the conference of religious teachers in Jerusalem.

'Military Source' Prediction

TA161921 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] A senior military source estimates that the disturbances in Judaea and Samaria will continue. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David is with us with the details:

In the past few days minor disturbances continued in Judaea and Samaria, and miltary sources believe they are linked to the events in the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the disturbances are different in character from those at the end of last week, in which three Balatah refugee camp residents were killed.

The core of the disturbances in the territories is the Nabulus area, particularly the Balatah refugee camp. Those who caused the incitement in the camp are called Al-Shabibah, the groups of pro-PLO youth. Some of them have been caught recently. They call themselves the Ninjas, and dress up like the characters in Ninja movies, wearing a black jacket which also covers their faces, and touting spiked clubs.

Military sources estimated that the disturbances in Judaea and Samaria will continue, mainly because of the disturbances in Gaza and East Jerusalem. The IDF and the security forces will do their utmost to maintain order, and will not interfere in demonstrations as long as public order is not disturbed.

IDF on Lessons Drawn

TA161927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Relative to incidents in the Gaza Strip, the Judaea and Samaria areas were calmer today. A senior military source told correspondents that the wave of riots has not yet passed, but that it is gradually and slowly subsiding. The Army, the source said, has already begun drawing conclusions from recent events. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports.

[Begin recording] There were a few disturbances throughout Judaea and Samaria: some cases of stone-throwing and partial strikes. The gravest incident: A female tourist was grazed in Hebron as a result of a stone which was thrown at a bus in which she was traveling with other tourists.

Calm is noticeable in Nabulus and in Balatah which had thus far been the center of riots in the territories. Most shops opened in Nabulus. In contrast, there is an almost complete commercial strike in Ramallah, although one can notice open shops on side streets. Tulkarm and Qalqilyah which had been relatively quiet at the beginning of the wave of riots yesterday and today made their contribution to the unrest, with several stonethrowing incidents recorded there.

The area south of Jerusalem was relatively quiet. Life at the universities in Judaea and Samaria is almost normal, except for student demonstrations, most of them inside the educational institutes themselves.

A senior military source said today that the current wave of unrest has not yet died out, but that it is gradually subsiding. This source believes that caution should be exercised since the sparks are still there and may cause the situation to flame up again. IDF units in the area are still reinforced and maintain full alert.

The senior military source says that in order not to exacerbate tension the security forces nowadays refrain from carrying out several acts such as the demolition of houses belonging to terrorists, which had already been approved; the demolition of illegal buildings; and making some detentions which are unrelated to the current riots.

As for the incidents at the Balatah refugee camp in which border policemen were involved, the military source says that lessons have already been drawn and that several changes have already been introduced. The main lesson from the present wave of riots, the military source says, is the need to improve communications between the Army and the local inhabitants, mainly in order to refute rumors and pass on messages to the inhabitants. [end recording]

Editorial Criticizes Policy

TA161711 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Right Way to Pacification Which Shamir Persists in Ignoring"]

[Text] The tension in the occupied Arab territories has become the topic of the hour on the Palestinian, Israeli, and international levels. Undoutedly the job of easing tension and removing its causes is the responsibility of Israel, which has been occupying these territories since 1967 without any indication on the horizon of an approaching end to the occupation.

Common sense and the requisites of the age of human and national rights plainly indicate that the status quo, in itself, is something unnatural. This assertion is not being uttered only by the Palestinians whose rights have been suppressed, but also by an enlightened class of Israelis whose appeals and warnings are not receiving the proper response from the political decision-making leaders in Israel.

A clear expression of the Israeli leaders' positions came in a reply by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to a question about the reasons for the tension and acts of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shamir was content to refer to Israel's military power and the capabilities of the security agencies in confronting the current incidents and ending the wave of violence through force.

Thus, Israel's prime minister is intentionally ignoring not only the present tension in the occupied territories but also its causes and motives. He is using an approach that is no longer acceptable by the standards of this age. Nations that possess a minimum of dignity reject this approach and consider it a heritage of the age of colonialism which has passed away forever.

Instead of resorting to the method of threats and intimidation, why should one not resort to modern international principles and charters that have granted nations all their rights? These are the very principles that ban the forcible occupation of the lands of others and guarantee all political rights to the people under occupation.

As proof of goodwill and realization of the fact that the Palestinian people have rights equal to those of other peoples, including the Israeli people themselves, one would have expected Shamir to talk about the current reality in the occupied territories. One would expect him to logically analyze the dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to show interest in the proposed framework for a peaceful settlement, particularly the international conference.

It was also expected that the concern of the executive authority in Israel would be epitomized by conducting a dialogue with the Palestinian people aimed at putting an end to the suffering, terminating the occupation, and exchanging land for peace in order to build a firm foundation for true coexistence in the region. But nothing of the sort happened at all.

We do not see anything in Shamir's logic that might contribute to the achievement of mutual understanding or accord between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Mutual understanding or accord should be based on mutual respect and recognition of legitimate rights, headed by the rights of the Palestinian people. The

disavowal of these rights and, consequently, the continuation of the occupation will eventually lead to the elimination of the chances of peace and perpetuation of the climate of tension.

Knesset Defeats 6 No-Confidence Motions

TA161755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] By a majority vote, the Knesset defeated six no-confidence motions on events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The Knesset debated the motions for 5 hours. Minister Hayim Corfu, who responded to the motions on behalf of the Cabinet, said that one should not panic or use rhetoric, as these only result in further agitation by hostile elements. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz.

Justice Rules on Al-Husayni Detention

TA161545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The High Court has ruled that not only the terrorists themselves, but also those who coordinate between organizations and subversive political activities, are culpable. The point was made in a ruling by Justice Eliyahu Vinograd who confirmed the adminstrative detention of Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Institute For Arab Studies in East Jerusalem. The reasoning for the ruling, which was made public today, said that Al-Husayni was linked directly to the organization of demonstrations, incitements, and strikes, both in the territories and in East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports that Justice Vinograd ruled that Al-Husayni's activities endanger state security and constitute such a public threat as to warrant detention.

King Husayn Addresses Graduate Officers
JN161422 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1224 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Speech by King Husayn at the graduation ceremonies of the 28th Command and Staff College class on 16 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother officers, honorable gathering: I extend to you my best greetings and heartfelt wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the graduation of the 28th class in the successful march of the Command and Staff College, to which we gave our confidence and support. This college did not hesitate to give the homeland and its valiant Jordanian Armed Forces another group of efficient colleague officers. We congratulate you, your Arab Army, and your leadership, which looks after you. God bless you and you are welcome in your new positions.

Brother officers, it pleases me on this blessed occasion to warmly congratulate your colleagues from the sisterly Arab and Islamic countries and from the friendly French Republic wishing you all success, progress, and plenty of offerings.

Brother officers, at this time last year, in my speech at the graduation of your colleagues from the 27th class, I urged the brother Arab leaders to respond to the call for an Arab summit as soon as possible to discuss the overall Arab situation to achieve Arab solidarity and common Arab action to confront the outside challenges threatening Arab order and to resolve Arab differences that feed Arab fragmentation. About 1 month ago God honored us and the leaders of this nation met in wellbeing and love in Amman, embodying the wish embraced by the hearts of and sought by our Arab people. It was also a blessed omen of a new starting point in the march of our nation.

The graduation of your class, which includes a large number of officers from sisterly Arab countries, is a living example and honest embodiment of the unity of this nation's fate and the inevitable cohesion of its structure in all fields, particularly the field of military honor, in which you work and with which you are affiliated. This is because your nation, as you all know, is facing many challenges and dangers. However, at this time of our nation's history, at the top of these challenges and dangers is the large-scale organized threat to our pan-Arab security.

Brother officers, you and your colleagues, and the members of the other Arab armies, assume before anyone else the responsibility of defending the security of your nation and its Arab system. This responsibility is based on entrenching Arab sovereignty on Arab land and safeguarding the components of the civilized Arab identity within the context of economic integration and security solidarity. This is to achieve progress and development.

Foreign countries describe our problem as being one of regional stability. However, we think it is primarily a problem of pan-Arab security. The concept of regional security, which stems from subservience to the will and designs of others, is seen by others as being an objective that can be achieved by containing problems instead of solving them. However, we view this as only a time bomb which will explode in our midst.

Our pan-Arab security first of all means that we regain our legitimate rights. It also means that we defend and protect these rights whether they are connected to the Arab land or linked to our Arab individual's freedom of choice. From this premise comes our principled and firm stand on the international and pan-Arab level. Our international policy is based on abidance by the UN Charter, on the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, and on our refusal to submit to the policies of containment which keep the embers smoldering under the ashes.

We adopt a positive and open-minded approach toward settling all our regional problems, whether with respect to the Gulf war or the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means and in accordance with international law and UN resolutions pertaining to these problems.

Our pan-Arab policy is based on constant action to build our intrinsic Arab strength in military, economic, social, and cultural fields to secure for ourselves the means to defend our Arab homeland and our legitimate right to stability and progress.

Brother officers, your graduation takes place in a year which has been replete with major events of utmost importance. Chief among these events, as I have already mentioned, has been the reunification of the Arabs at the extraordinary Amman summit. The conclusion by the two superpowers a few days ago of the agreement on eliminating medium- and short-range missiles in Asia and Europe is of no less importance in terms of its meaning and dimension. We warmly and enthusiastically welcome this historic and important event. It represents one of the inclinations which has been consolidated in the last quarter of this century, the inclination to learn how to coexist with others under the canopy of security, peace, and dialogue despite the disparity in ideologies and the diversity of human social and economic systems.

We hope that this spirit will spread and prevail. We also hope that it will become the base of action for all sides to entrench the principles of peaceful coexistence on this planet, which constantly becomes smaller due to the effects of the technological revolution of this age. This is especially true in the field of development and communications, which have stamped the current epoch more than ever before with mutual interdependence among states in the interests of all peoples, since they are now partners in inhabiting and building this world.

Perhaps the first among whom we hope this spirit will prevail are the Iranian regime and the Israeli leadership. Through their aggressive policies they continue to bring disasters and instability to this region of the world. Through its rejection of a peaceful settlement of its bloody dispute with fraternal Iraq, which continues to hold fast with heroism and loftiness, the Iranian regime obstructs a constructive Gulf cooperation and puts obstacles before a wider regional cooperation within the framework of the ICO, in addition to the destruction it is inflicting on its people and on area peoples alike.

The relations of cooperation and good-neighborliness, which the world's states seek to entrench for the welfare of peoples, can only be achieved through dialogue and understanding without threats and the use of force. The time has passed when the states could disguise their ambitions as the export of their opinions and principles by force of arms. Whoever adheres to these outdated ideas harms himself before others.

The Israeli leadership, which rejects an international conference for peace in the Middle East despite the lapse of 20 years since the occupation of the land of others with force and the colonization of this land in accordance with a comprehensive settlement plan, proceeds with a policy contradicting the movement of history. This movement has left behind after nearly 4 decades the old concepts of colonization, which have been buried by the peoples' struggle and blood as they strive for their freedom and affirm their national identity. Can this leadership cease to slumber in the time of colonization and wake up in the age of liberty?

Has not time come for it to realize that geographic lines no longer can be drawn by guns and rifles because these lines must be removed by the peoples' will and determination to gain their freedom? Has the Israeli leadership not learned from history? Has it not realized the meaning of the consecutive uprisings by the Arab people under occupation in Gaza, Hebron, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nabulus, Golan, and in every camp and city in the occupied territory? Brutality, repression, deportation, and collective punishment are ineffective weapons and tools and cannot undermine the will of freedom which is deep-rooted and growing in the minds and hands of the Palestinian Arab people under occupation.

Adherence to the use of these weapons will do nothing other than prolong the pain, deepen the wounds, and intensify the bitterness. Freedom is truth and truth will certainly triumph to reinforce an atmosphere of confidence which provides security and peace for everyone.

Brother officers, if the two superpowers, prompted by their moral and human responsibilities toward the future of human civilization, have accomplished this great achievement on the road to scrapping nuclear arms amidst the world's enthusiasm and its welcoming statements, we, in the Middle East, look forward to seeing this spirit in the UN Security Council, especially by the UN Security Council's five permanent members, in their dealing with Middle East conflicts.

We hope regional conflicts will not be looked upon as propitious opportunities for others to exploit and benefit from. We hope they will be looked upon as cracks in the edifice of world security and stability that call on those capable of launching initiatives to mend them. World security and peace is one issue. Resolving one aspect of this issue cannot be a substitute for resolving all aspects.

The Middle East region has had its full share of regional conflicts. There is no doubt that this region deserves to see great attention given to it along with intensive efforts on all levels by everyone. This is because the resolution of these conflicts will strengthen the edifice of world peace and security and will also enable its peoples to devote their efforts to development and construction. Appeasing and propitiating the enemies of peace will only cause them to be more intransigent and insistent on persisting in the aggression. However, exposing them, encircling them, and holding out confidently against them is the way to return them to the right course, the course of dialogue and peace.

We, the Arabs, have nothing to do other than to always remain alert and ready in our confrontation of the enemies of peace to safeguard our Arab territories and defend our legitimate rights. Concluding, dear brothers, it pleases me to congratulate you once again and to thank your command and the Guidance Department of the Royal Jordanian Command and Staff College for what you have done and accomplished. I wish you all and all of your colleagues wellbeing and success. May God help our nation successfully proceed on the road of wellbeing, affection, and constructive action. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

Sudan's Al-Mahdi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN170927 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—The prime minister of fraternal Sudan, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, arrived in Amman last night on a 3-day official visit. He was received upon arrival at Amman airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, the ministers, the mayor of Amman, the governor of the capital, the director of public security, the chief of staff, the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Amman, the Sudanese ambassador in Amman, and several senior officials.

In a statement to JNA upon arrival, Al-Mahdi praised bilateral relations between Jordan and Sudan, saying: We are in a continuous dialogue with Jordanian officials to discuss bilateral, Arab, and Islamic issues.

Al-Mahdi said his visit to Jordan aims at developing bilateral relations and pointed to the Amman summit's success in deepening Arab solidarity. Al-Mahdi is

accompanied on this visit by Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, minister of trade, cooperation, and supply; General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces; and Hasan al-Amin al-Bashir, ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Iraq's Ramadan Leaves, Cables Al-Rifa'i

JN161529 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member in the Republic of Iraq, left Amman this morning after leading the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Joint Committee, which ended in Amman yesterday. Ramadan was accorded an official sendoff at Amman Airport. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i led those who saw Ramadan off. Also present were the deputy prime minister, ministers, the Amman governor, the chief of public security, the Central Bank governor, the chief of staff, the doyen of the diplomatic corps, the Iraqi ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior officials.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received a cable from Taha Yasin Ramadan expressing his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and the good feelings which he and his accompanying delegation received during their visit to Jordan.

He said: I express my happiness with the distinguished results of the visit. I also reiterate my confidence that the future of bilateral relations will always witness development and expansion through honest efforts by officials in the two sisterly countries to achieve the ambitions of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn. The ambitions are for relations between Jordan and Iraq to continue to be shining and prosperous in the service of the objectives of our glorious Arab nation.

Joint Company With Iraq Holds Meeting

JN151945 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The meeting of the General Assembly of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transportation Company was held at the Transportation Ministry today. The meeting was attended by Jordanian Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan and Iraqi Transportation and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi.

The meeting heard reports presented by Mu'taz al-Balbisi, chairman of the board of directors, and by Eng Jamil Ibrahim, director general of the company, on achievements last year which show growing production. The meeting was attended by the members of the Jordanian and Iraqi sides of the General Assembly of the company.

Murphy Remarks Called 'Form of Indulgence'

JN161249 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Dec 87 p 26

[From the "Spotlights" column: "Nothing More Than the Indulgence of State Department Employees," by the political editor]

[Text] Richard Murphy's harsh words in the U.S. Congress are no more than a form of indulgence by U.S. State Department officials.

The practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the way of enforcing constant repression, financing the cost of occupying Palestinians from the pockets of Palestinians, destroying and containing the economy, closing the doors of work to graduates, and allowing the deterioration of the health conditions of Palestinians—to which Murphy referred—does not prevent the U.S. Administration and Congress from continuing their support for the Israeli occupation in the name of safeguarding Israel's security and financing expansionist Israeli adventures at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer.

Is it true that the U.S. Administration, which carries the worries of the "human rights" of a Jew in the remotest village in the Ukraine, does not know of the violations its strategic Israeli ally is committing against the rights of 4 million Palestinians?

Is it true that the U.S. Administration does not know that Israel is occupying the Palestinians' homeland? And that the occupied people are resisting their occupiers? And that repression is the Israeli response to resistance? And that the occupation authorities have imprisoned 250,000 Palestinians, killed hundreds of unarmed people in the streets, demolished more than 2,000 homes, destroyed the Palestinian national economy, and expropriated half of the land of the occupied territory?

Is it true that the U.S. Administration has not heard of the invasion of Lebanon and the pursuit of the Palestinians dispersed there because they—like all people—remember the name of the old homeland, yearn for it, sing songs in its praise, dream of returning to it, and believe a homeland is very valuable and deserves fighting and dying for?

The U.S. Administration and Congress know more than us about the actions of the Zionist occupation and of Zionist plans for aggression and expansion. Their blind support for that ugly entity means they agree to everything and are associates in the repression, killing, terrorism, and invasion, for they finance and arm that entity and provide it with political and diplomatic international cover.

Murphy's words in Congress will pass through the ears of the congressmen but will not touch their minds or conscience. The only response the bills allocating billions of dollars to finance Israeli occupation and expansion

will evoke will continue to be the raised hand of approval. The U.S. State Department will continue to exert pressure on West Germany to buy "sophisticated" Israeli weapons which German industry cannot manufacture and to extend aid to Honduras so it can buy Israeli Kfir aircraft.

The U.S. State Department will continue to link its aid to Africa's tyrants with the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel and its representative at the United Nations will continue to oppose all draft resolutions—supported by the entire world—condemning the occupation and its practices.

We are aware of the psychological pressure to which Mr Murphy and thousands of U.S. State Department employees who are serving or who have served in the area are being subjected. We are aware of their embarrassment and we are aware that their government's stand conflicts with mankind's ethics, logic, and civilization. We are aware that what he said during the hearings of a congressional committee is a normal reaction to such pressure and embarrassment. However, we also know that such words will remain confined to the indulgence of U.S. State Department employees.

World Bank Grants Mining Company $31 Million

JN161308 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Amman—The World Bank has granted a $31 million loan to the Jordan Phosphate Mining Company for the first phase of the Al-Shaydiyah [name as published] mining project. The company's board of directors approved the loan agreement. The government has entrusted the Jordanian ambassador in Washington with signing the agreement and its appendices on behalf of the company.

Hizballah Obtains SAM-9 Missiles From Iran

NC171308 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] According to security sources in the south, Hizballah has received SAM-9 missiles from Iranian officials. Hizballah has installed these missiles in its positions in Al-Biqa' and Mashgharah.

3 Hizballah Casualties in Clash With Israelis

NC161757 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] AFP has quoted Hizballah as saying that one of its fundamentalist resistance fighters was killed and two others were wounded today in a new clash with the Israeli Army south of the Al-Biqa' valley, in the Birkat Jabbur sector.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, a Hizballah leader, has inspected Hizballah positions near Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah. He said today that he had visited these positions to raise the morale of the mujahidin and to urge them to continue the struggle.

Hizballah Leader on Operations Against Israel

NC170947 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Dec 87 p 5

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, a Hizballah leader, said that the fundamentalists will intensify their operations against Israel and against the South Lebanese Army [SLA], which is collaborating with Israel.

AFP has cited Al-Tufayli as saying: Our aim is to attack Israel by land and sea. We will eliminate the obstacle represented by the SLA. Al-Tufayli praised the determination of the Islamic resistance and its successful operations in the south, noting: The martyrs are leading the way for their brothers who have a burning desire to fight the enemy.

Al-Tufayli also spoke about the naval operations of the Islamic resistance against an Israeli naval patrol off the coast of Al-Zahrani last week. He said: With their small boats, our fighters sank two Israeli frigates, one of which was an Saar 2 and the other an Saar 3. Three martyrs fell in the operation. The Israelis were taken by surprise and wanted to play down both the operation and their losses.

He declined to comment on press reports about attempts by fundamentalist fighters to mine the sea in the way used by Iran, describing this matter as a military secret. Al-Tufayli denied that some 2,000 members of the Revolution Guards in Lebanon had participated in operations, saying: Their role is confined to military training and religious guidance. He added: Besides major operations, the Islamic resistance also molests the Israeli occupation forces and their agents by planting mines and laying ambushes within the security zone, or by firing rockets that can hit northern Israel.

Amal Restricting Hizballah Movements in South

NC161814 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] According to information received from the south by the Voice of Lebanon, the Amal Movement established several mobile checkpoints along the line extending between Al-Ghaziyah, 'Adlun, Tyre, and Al-Nabatiyah today. Travelers were searched. It has been learned that these security measures are designed to restrict the movement of Hizballah fighters and to prevent the smuggling of arms and ammunition to the area adjacent to the border strip.

Israeli, SLA Operations Continue in South

Towns Shelled; 3 SLA Killed

NC161821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, the artillery of the Zionist occupation forces in Ibil al-Saqi has shelled the towns of Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah in the western sector.

A group of Islamic resistance fighters today detonated an explosive device as an agent foot patrol was passing along the Bra'shit Bayt Yahun Road, killing three of its members. Agent Lahd's radio admitted the operation, saying that one militiaman was injured.

Gunboats Cruise South

NC162016 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Zionist gunboats were seen cruising off the southern coast from Al-Zahrani to Al-Naqurah tonight.

In another development, intermittent skirmishes took place this evening between the positions of the Popular Liberation Army and those of agent Lahd's militia on the Kafr Falus front.

'Tension' in Al-Biqa'

NC170726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tension remains high in southern Lebanon and western Al-Biqa' as a result of the continuing Israeli buildup there and the Israeli bombardment of the liberated areas, particularly Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah, where clashes are still raging between resistance men and Israeli forces.

Meanwhile, Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, has emphasized the need to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Goulding was briefed by UNIFIL Commander General Haegglund on the difficulties facing the UN forces in executing their duties.

In another development, a general strike will be observed in Sidon and the south tomorrow in response to a call made by Minister Nabih Birri and Sidon's leading political and spiritual figures. The purpose of the strike is to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian people, whose uprising has been going on for 9 consecutive days.

Resistance-Lahd Clash

NC170930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] National resistance fighters attacked a position [place not identified] manned by agent Lahd's militiamen last night. A ferocious confrontation involving the use of rockets, machineguns, and tanks developed between the two sides. The agents also made use of helicopters during the 1-hour clash. The agent Lahd radio admitted the attack, saying that the bodies of six resistance men were found in the area, but it failed to mention anything about the agent's casualties, which amounted to well over 10.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats tried to approach the Al-Zahrani coast last night, but were chased away by ground defense fire.

Moscow Trying To Avert Israeli Attack in South

NC171241 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] President al-Jumayyil met today with Vasiliy Kolotusha, Soviet ambassador to Lebanon. After the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said that he had briefed the president on the U.S.-Soviet talks at the Washington summit. He denied any knowledge of whether the question of Lebanon was specifically discussed at the summit. He also dismissed reports that he had conveyed a message to President al-Jumayyil from Soviet leaders.

Replying to a question about his country's stand toward developments in the south, Kolotusha said that Moscow has held contacts through diplomatic channels to avert an Israeli attack against the south.

Soviet Radar Reportedly Installed in Al-Baruk

NC171315 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] A Lebanese security delegation has visited the Al-Baruk region to investigate reports that the Soviet Union has installed radar equipment there.

It is known that in view of the strategic position of Al-Baruk, radar installed there can monitor all activities in the Mediterranean.

Sha'ban Lauds Palestinian Muslims 'Uprising'

LD162157 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 16, IRNA—Head of Lebanon's Islamic Towhid Movement (ITM) Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban lauded on Wednesday the popular uprising of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied lands as a "crushing" response to reactionary Arab leaders.

The ITM head also described the uprising as the start of a new stage aimed at eliminating the illegitimate Zionist entity from the Palestinian homeland.

The spread of the Palestinian struggle against Zionist usurpers in the occupied lands is of great significance and is an indication of Muslims' refusal to accept the Zionists' domination over the holy Islamic lands, noted Sha'ban.

The prominent Lebanese figure stressed that these struggles are going to foil all compromising plots aimed at eliminating the Muslim nation of Palestine.

Sha'ban, saying that these determining struggles are inspired by the Islamic Revolution of Iran, pledged Lebanese Muslim's full support for Palestinian strugglers.

The oppressed Palestinian people have fallen victim to the plots hatched by their treacherous rulers, besides the atrocities and crimes perpetrated by the Zionists against them, Sha'ban said.

Communist Party Praises Palestinian 'Uprising'

NC161413 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau has praised the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories, saying that it embodies the Palestinian Arab people's desire for liberation. The Arab peoples cannot be obliterated by the passage of time, no matter how long the occupation continues. The iron fist policy, oppression, and arbitrary measures will not thwart the Palestinian people's will.

The party affirmed that this uprising represents the truly liberationist and revolutionary answer to the calls for surrender uttered at the Amman summit. It is also the way to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, which the Camp David course does not. The occupied Arab territories can be liberated by enhancing, supporting, and expanding this uprising, not by following and extending the Camp David course.

The party's Political Bureau called on Lebanese and Arab nationalist forces to support this uprising. At the same time, it warned of an Israeli aggression that is being

prepared in coordination with the United States, and called for the unity of Lebanese and Palestinian national efforts to strengthen the confrontaiton with the Zionist enemy.

The Political Bureau said: Now more than ever the great challenges confronting the Arab liberation movement require that unity be restored among the Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist forces and Syria in their struggle. It added that with a strong alliance between the factions of the Arab national liberation movement and the Soviet Union, this unity will constitute a cornerstone in the process of public mobilization to confront the reactionary Arab retreat.

The Political Bureau asserted that combative solidarity with the uprising in the occupied territories can be demonstrated by supporting and consolidating national resistance and by preparing to confront the Israeli aggression. In this connection, the party called on the Arab public and international community to support the uprising in the occupied territories and to work for an end to the Zionist enemy's massacres of the inhabitants of these territories and southern Lebanon.

Syrian Forces Arrest 80 in Bturram, Shikka

NC161810 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] AFP has reported that Syrian occupation forces in the north arrested approximately 80 people today in the villages of Fi', Bturram, and Shikka after a Syrian soldier was killed in Bturram.

According to information from the north, the Syrian forces today kidnapped Ahmad Darwish, Edmond 'Amanu'il from the town of 'Ibrin in Qada' al-Batrun, and two soldiers, one of whom was identified as Mikyail al-Ba'i from the town of Ijd'ibrin. Reports say that the Syrian occupation forces today released one of the detainees, Maurice Nmayr, who was immediately taken to a hospital because of extensive bruises and fractures sustained as the result of beatings.

Group 'Executes' 3 Syrians

NC161507 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Organization has telephoned our radio station, claiming to have executed a Syrian intelligence sergeant named Fadil Mahmud, along with two of his aides, in Shikka [north Lebanon] near the Al-Khaffan factory owned by Antoine Abu Badra this morning. The execution was in retaliation for repressive Syrian measures against citizens in northern Lebanon.

Organization Claims 2 Attacks

NC170917 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The 9 February Organization has expressed solidarity with the inhabitants of Al-Kurah in their fight against Syrian occupation. The organization claimed responsibility for a rocket attack against the ('Araman) barracks on the road of Dayr 'Ammasr in 'Akkar, which is occupied by the Syrians. It said that the attack, which occurred at 12:30 last night, killed and wounded a number of Syrian soldiers. The 9 February Organization also claimed that it ambushed a Syrian military vehicle at 2:30 today on the road to Al-Minyah and opened rocket fire on it, leaving several elements killed or wounded. The organization promised the inhabitants of Tripoli and the north that it would continue the struggle until all Syrians are expelled from Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH on Striking at U.S. Interests

JN170917 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, 16 Dec (SANA)—In an editorial entitled "A New Hostile Step," today's AL-THAWRAH states that the signing of the hostile memorandum of cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv means that the United States is pressing ahead with the implementation of its colonialist scheme to dominate the Arab region.

The paper adds that the military cooperation memorandum between Washington and the Zionist entity corroborates the fact that antagonizing the Arabs is a firm and steady U.S. Middle East policy aimed at protecting the Israeli aggression and enabling it to continue and expand.

The paper indicates that the United States has a black history in the Arab homeland. This history, it adds, is stained with blood and full of intrigues and plots and its pages abound with proof that the Arabs gained nothing from their relations with the United States except tragedies, poverty, ruination, weakness, and division. Events clearly show the escalation of U.S. antagonism against Arabs and Washington's move from the position of planning aggression against the Arab nation to participating in it.

The paper calls on the Arabs to adopt a stand corresponding to the challenge posed by the new U.S.-Israeli military cooperation memorandum to resist this new imperialist campaign which represents a danger threatening the Arab nation and our masses everywhere.

The paper then calls for striking at U.S. economic and political interests in the Arab homeland so Washington will realize that supporting aggression against the Arabs cannot go unpunished.

Concluding, the paper says: Escalating popular struggle against the United States and consolidating the masses' support for pan-Arab steadfastness led by Syria constitute the appropriate reply to this new hostile U.S.-Zionist step.

U.S. Warned Against Vetoing UN Resolution

JN162027 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: The comprehensive popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza coincides with the UN resolution condemning the Zionist enemy and calling for isolating it and imposing sanctions on it. These resolutions will create circumstances for the Security Council which undoubtedly will constitute a real embarrassment for the U.S. representative. The expected U.S. veto is equivalent to the firing by the Zionist criminals on the innocent people in the occupied homeland as well as to the bloodshed of our masses. Hundreds have been martyred or wounded.

If the United States insists on following its unjust, aggressive course against our people, continuing its support for the Zionist killers, and instigating them to shed our blood through its protection of the killers at the United Nations and through its challenge of the international community's will, it should expect that the attack by our angry people against the U.S. Consulate in occupied Jerusalem is merely an indication of the reality of the Arab and human feelings toward the U.S. determination to protect and support the Zionist killers.

The repeated U.S. vetoes of the UN resolutions to prevent any international measures to curb Zionist aggressiveness is fully equivalent to Yitzhaq Shamir's decision to consider the West Bank and Gaza closed military areas. It is also equivalent to his instruction to his barbaric forces to fire on the innocent mases who are armed only with their right to freedom and life and their desire to get rid of the chains of the racist, odious occupation.

The Washington rulers should think thoroughly about this matter before instructing their representative at the United Nations to use the veto to champion the criminals. This is because, afterward, it cannot prevent those who will be harmed by this stand from using their veto to confront America and its interests whenever they can to express their legitimate resistance to the racist, aggressive course represented by Washington's support for the Zionist killers and their hostile, expansionist policy.

If Washington's interests and calculations call for slaughtering the Arabs in Palestine at the hands of Zionists, the Arabs in Palestine and their supporters will not hesitate to confront the killers with methods preventing the continuation of their crimes and obstructing their objectives of uprooting our people from their homeland.

Khaddam, Al-Shar' Receive Austrian Minister

JN161933 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Dr Robert Lichal, Austria's minister of national defense, and his accompanying delegation at 1900 today. The meeting was attended by Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus. The talks revolved around the situation in the region and issues of common interest.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Robert Lichal, Austria's minister of national defense, and his delegation this evening. The Austrian ambassador in Damascus

attended. The talks revolved around the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries as well as the current situation in the region.

Al-Shar' Receives PFLP's Habash, Al-Yamani

JN171701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, and Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], member of the PFLP Political Bureau. Talks dealt with the current situation in the Palestinian arena.

Press Cited on 'Uprising,' Egyptian Role

16 December

JN161000 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0540 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH writes on our kinfolk's uprising in the occupied homeland. It says: While our children's bodies were falling on Palestinian soil, the Egyptian regime's ambassador to the Zionists was discussing with the murderers ways to promote Egyptian-Zionist relations, Sharon was celebrating the moving of his ministry to the holy city of Jerusalem, Rabin was signing a military agreement with Washington, and Zionist officers were coordinating with the Pentagon to carry out a new aggression. In light of this, what kind of affiliation to Arabism is that of the Egyptian regime whose indifference, even to Egypt's Arabism, was forgiven by several sides?

These sides' concern for Arabism is false as long as the United States continues to be their friend and is at the same time an ally to the Zionists. A sincere attitude necessitates a certain stand toward the United States that would settle matters and remove suspicions. The U.S. President's adviser for national security blamed the Zionists because they did not improve the living conditions of the Arab citizens in the occupied homeland, thus considering the Palestine question as merely a question of a piece of bread or a drink of milk. Such statements should urge the Arabs to speak out, particularly since the United States has warned that it will veto any UN resolution denouncing the Zionist killing of Palestinian children.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We say from the Damascus of Arabism and dignity as we have said over a thousand times before, the road to liberation can only begin by judging others' relations with us in accordance with their policy on our cause, and by creating a new Arab situation that would impose the Arab nation's will on its enemies. If our sons in the occupied homeland have renewed their allegiance in blood, then the entire Arab nation must remain committed to its noes: no reconciliation, no negotiations, and no peace unless the Arab will triumphs.

The newspaper TISHRIN also writes on the uprising: The heroic stand of the masses in the occupied territory will inevitably foil all capitulatory plans in the Palestinian arena and all the Egyptian regime's attempts to force the Palestinian right wing to recognize Israel in advance. The imperialists and Zionists thought the spirit of steadfastness and resistance had vanished. However, they now realize that their moves are unable to affect the peoples' will and that their attempts to falsify facts and distort concepts have failed.

Resistance and fedayeen operations have escalated in Lebanon and Palestine. Moreover, the occupied homeland is presently witnessing a comprehensive revolution. The recent UN resolutions have exposed the stands of Zionists and imperialists, confirmed the full support for peoples' struggle, and denounced the actions of the United States and Israel. These resolutions have accused the true terrorists who usurped the Palestinian people's rights, particularly the right to self-determination.

Thus, the Palestine question has restored its impetus and its place as first priority on the stage of events. This would not have happened without Syria's firm pan-Arab stand throughout the past years against the attempts to ignore the Palestine question. The Syrian stand has ignited the spirit of steadfastness and resistance and foiled the capitulationists' plans. The uprising in the occupied territory is a lesson to those who have not yet learned a lesson.

17 December

JN171325 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Press review]

[Text] Brothers, regarding our kinfolk's uprising in the occupied homeland, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Zionist command has transferred thousands of troops and scores of tanks and armored vehicles to the Gaza Strip to comply with the wishes of Shamir and Rabin and also to fulfill their threats to the Arabs of occupied Palestine. The Zionists have also demonstrated a very large military show, relying on U.S. support. President Reagan deliberately announced this support, which coincided with the massacre of Arabs in occupied Gaza and the West Bank.

We do not find in the U.S. President's utterances of support for the step taken by the terrorist Sharon in Jerusalem anything to suggest that the United States is a superpower concerned about peace. President Reagan behaved exactly like the Zionist soldiers—both parties opened fire in their own way and killed the Arabs of Palestine using their own methods and weapons. At the

Security Council, the United States claimed it had not heard about the bloody incidents in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and that if it had, it would condemn violence carried out by both sides, the unarmed, besieged Palestinians and the Zionists who are heavily armed with U.S. weapons and equipment.

Hence, the U.S. Administration equates the aggressor to the victim and also the one who was rendered homeless to the one who has usurped his land.

AL-BA'TH adds: The current crime against the Arab Palestinians is being committed on U.S. orders and with the backing of all U.S. authorities. It cannot be denied that the U.S. war machine in the Zionist hand is capable of killing and destroying and that this war machine was given to the Zionists to terrorize Arabs inside and outside the occupied homeland. We can, however, denounce the relations between some Arabs and the United States which have become so close that those Arabs do not hear Reagan's lethal words.

AL-BA'TH also says: What the occupied Arab territories are experiencing is not exceptional; it is a militant tide. If this struggle is to be crowned with victory, Arabs in their own countries must say yes to armed struggle, yes to steadfastness, and yes to Syria's consistent Arab stands that emphasize that an enemy is indeed an enemy and that victory cannot be achieved by capitulation but through martyrdom to restore Arab glory and dignity.

Under the headline "The Egyptian Regime's Shyness and the Embarrassment of the Uprising," AL-THAWRAH says: The whole world has condemned the terrorist Zionist practices perpetrated by the occupation troops against the Arab citizens—cutting off water supplies, preventing the wounded from receiving treatment at hospitals, and turning cities, villages, and camps into large collective detention camps. While the whole world is condemning these repressive Zionist measures, the Egyptian regime finds itself in the embarrassing position of only being able to express regret over what is taking place. This is due to this regime's concern for the feelings of the Israelis, the Camp David partners who did not deserve the Egyptian regime's denunciation or condemnation.

AL-BA'TH [as heard] also says: This is not strange, for the Egyptian regime is shackled by the provisions and articles of the Camp David accords. Previously, this regime dared not denounce the Israeli annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, nor Israeli occupation of Beirut during its invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982. Moreover, the Egyptian regime ignored all terrorist and piratical practices, as well as the repeated Israeli attacks against Lebanon and its camps and territory.

Indeed, the Egyptian regime's state of affairs will remain the same as long as the Israeli flag is flying over Cairo and as long as the Israeli Embassy is present in a Cairo suburb and also as long as the Camp David shackles are tightening their grip on Egypt in military, political, and economic fields. This situation will continue as long as the Egyptian regime, in accordance with Camp David, is losing its freedom, will, and ability to protect both Egypt's national security and pan-Arab security.

Afghanistan

Released Prisoners Allegedly Drafted Into Army

BK170240 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Hundreds of prisoners released from jail in Afghanistan under a general amnesty early this month have been drafted into the Army. According to reports from Kabul, these prisoners were not even allowed to meet their families before their conscription. Most of them have been sent to military units engaged in fierce fighting around Khowst garrison, which has been besieged by the mujahidin. Severe fighting is also reported from Qandahar. Three hospitals in the city are filled with corpses and injured.

Prisoners Released in Faryab Province 16 Dec

LD170556 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] In view of the presidential amnesty decree regarding the release of prisoners, 112 prisoners were freed from prison in the Province of Faryab today. According to a BIA report, a meeting was organized for this purpose in the province. Aqa Rahim and Ramazan, on behalf of the other prisoners, said that they would serve for national reconciliation and the decisions of the historic Grand Assembly under which their standing term of sentence was pardoned. They affirmed that they would cooperate to maintain peace and security in their areas.

Mujahidin Leader Rejects Soviet Proposals

PM161511 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 87 p 3

['Amir Mustafa 'Ubayd report: "Leader of Islamic Alliance of Mujahidin of Afghanistan: We Reject Proposed Soviet Peace Initiatives Because They Are Not Credible"]

[Text] Holy Mecca—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Shaykh Yunis Khalis, leader of the Islamic alliance of the mujahidin of Afghanistan, has indicated that the mujahidin movement does not reject sincere peaceful efforts aimed at solving the Afghan problem, but it does reject the initiatives currently being proposed by the Soviets, for they are not credible. They seek to deceive world public opinion and attempt to persuade the mujahidin to lay down their arms so that the occupation forces and the agent regime can have a go at them.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his visit to the World Islamic League, Khalis added: The mujahidin reject any interference in their affairs by any party. Our acceptance of a peaceful solution is linked to conditions, the most important of which are as follows: We must participate in negotiations as a main party. The present government in Kabul must be removed, since it is illegitimate and no one in Afghanistan accepts it. The Soviets must announce their withdrawal from the country, setting a date for such a withdrawal and providing guarantees. However, they are not thinking about this. They have recently extended a railway line linking Kabul with Moscow. They have also begun to extend oil and gas pipelines inside Afghan territory.

Khalis stated: The jihad will continue. We will force Soviet troops to depart from Afghanistan. We are confident that the Islamic peoples' support for the Afghan mujahidin will continue. These peoples have not withheld any support or aid from us in order to help the march of the Islamic jihad continue.

Shaykh Khalis, who was accompanied during his visit by Muti'ollah, head of the Islamic Party's Military Committee, and Elhamuddin Muhammad Kamel, head of the party's Islamic Call Committee, expressed his confidence in Pakistani President Muhammad Ziaul Haq. He said: Whatever international pressures he is exposed to, he will not cease to support the Afghan mujahidin and refugees.

At the military level, Khalis stressed that the Afghan mujahidin are achieving excellent victories and that their losses are limited in comparison with their victories. This makes them even more determined to continue the jihad in order to achieve comprehensive victory.

Khalis indicated that the Soviet invasion was preceded by lengthy preparation for an ideological invasion. He said: Any people who are proud of using a foreign language, foreign clothes, and foreign customs are in fact ideologically invaded. He demanded that the Islamic peoples adhere to Islamic teachings and morals and learn from the experience of the Afghans' struggle. They are a small people with unsophisticated arms but who, through their sincere will and strong beliefs, have achieved major military gains against an enemy equipped with the latest military hardware. Jihad is the only way to preserve the pride and dignity of Muslims wherever they are and at all times.

World Islamic League Secretary General Dr 'Abdallah Nasif received the Afghan delegation and discussed current developments in the Afghan problem and the proposed peace initiatives, as well as aid for the Afghan mujahidin and refugees. Dr Nasif stressed to the delegation that the League will continue to support the mujahidin.

Trade Union Protocol Signed With USSR

LD170552 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] A protocol of mutual cooperation between the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union has been signed in Kabul. In accordance with this protocol, the two unions will cooperate in matters of mutual concern in 1988.

The protocol was signed on the Afghan side by Satar Pordeli, president of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan, and on the Soviet side by Gennadiy Ivanovich Yanayev, secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR. The documents were then exchanged.

According to another report, the delegation of the All-Union Central Council has returned to its country. The president and some secretaries of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan said farewell to the Soviet delegation.

Friendship Society Meeting Held With UK

LD170617 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The presidium of the Anglo-Afghan society held a meeting today in the headquarters of the Union of the Friendship Societies of Afghanistan with Foreign Countries. The session was presided over by Sarwar Yoresh, president of the BIA State Committee and president of the Anglo-Afghan Friendship Society. At the meeting, the expansion of the society's activities, in the form of increasing cooperation and understanding between the British and Afghan people, was discussed.

Bangladesh

Officials, Opposition on U.S. 'Interference'

BK161729 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 16 (AFP)—Efforts by the United States to find a peaceful solution to the political crisis in Bangladesh angered government officials here Wednesday and led to disputes in the already fragile opposition.

The government did not comment on the visit by U.S. Ambassador Willard Ames de Pree to President Mohammed Hussain Ershad on Saturday or the visits he made to the two main opposition leaders on Sunday and Monday.

But observers said authorities did not appreciate the fact that the "low profile" meetings were made public, nor did they appreciate a U.S. Embassy statement on the political crisis Tuesday.

That statement said that Washington "believes that a dialogue that includes all political elements is in the interests of a constitutional and peaceful resolution to the current political situation in Bangladesh."

Observers said the initial reaction within opposition ranks, which appeared divided over the statement, might not have been unwelcome to the government which had earlier condemned it as "interference" in Bangladesh affairs.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the Awami League opposition grouping, said here Wednesday that "nobody should interfere to keep Mr. Ershad in power."

Sheikh Hasina, whom Mr. de Pree met Sunday, said that Mr. Ershad's resignation was the wish of all the people, adding "he must go."

Secretary-general of the pro-Soviet Baksal Party said at the same meeting that "the American ambassador is trying to keep Ershad in power."

The position of the other main opposition group, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by Begum Khaleda Zia, appeared more ambiguous, observers said.

Begum Zia, when contacted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said she believed the U.S. Embassy statement was "more or less the same thing that we want."

She said: "They're talking about a constitutional way... That's exactly what we're talking about... We don't want anything else." Begum Zia met Mr. de Pree Monday.

Begum Zia reiterated her party's position that a constitutional solution had to begin with Mr. Ershad's resignation and the transfer of power to a transitional government which would oversee new parliamentary elections.

The opposition, united only in its desire to see Mr. Ershad step down, has agreed that he should name a vice-president before resigning who should be "a neutral person, acceptable to all," Begum Zia said.

A vice-president assumes power when the president's office becomes vacant and takes charge of the government until new elections are held, according to the Constitution.

The opposition has been demanding a transitional government, saying that since Parliament has been dissolved the 33 MP's in the 36-member government no longer have the right to hold office.

Under the Constitition, new elections must be held within 90 days of Parliament being dissolved, a period ending in early March.

Mr. Ershad declared a 120-day state of emergency on November 27 after some three weeks of opposition strikes and protests demanding his resignation which he said were ruinous to the economy.

He dissolved Parliament on December 9, but pledged new elections within 90 days and offered to open a dialogue with the two opposition leaders, who were freed from 10 days house arrest.

Further Details on Victory Day Speeches
BK170516 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said the masses would accept only the kind of politics which is aimed at progress and development and not retardation of the country. The president was addressing a meeting organized by the Jatiya Party on the occasion of Victory Day in Dhaka yesterday. He said the people in the past had suffered and made sacrifices for economic emancipation, but they have been subjected to neglect and deprivation and to their dismay saw plundering of national wealth and resources. As a result, the people no more support the negative paths of destruction and terrorism which is now confined to political activists only. Such negative politics has now turned into acts of terrorism by vested quarters.

The president spoke of the government's politics of advancement and development during the last 6 years. Economic planning from cities and towns to the village-based upazilas [subdistricts] has created a new enthusiasm among the vast majority of population who are now assured of a bright future. President Ershad said the independence which was earned at the cost of much sacrifices cannot be allowed to be guided by whims of a section of people who preach democracy but are devoid of basic democratic norms and accommodation. In democracy, there is no scope to decide people's opinion by using terrorism. Terrorism only breeds terrorism and, in the long run, it will be fatal to the nation and society. Election, he said, is the only means to elicit public opinion. In order to resolve the political problem and pave the way for fresh elections for the people's verdict, he has shown the democratic spirit of accommodation and dissolved Parliament with a heavy heart. The president said the parties which truly subscribe to democracy should take part in the election for the people's verdict.

Referring to the demand of some political parties for his resignation, he said anybody's sweet will cannot be termed as people's opinion. He is the elected president and will step down only if people through ballots reject his leadership.

The president said for greater democratic accommodation and understanding his government has exhibited [words indistinct] in favor of sustaining democracy. Nobody should take our democratic gesture as weakness, he added.

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Deputy Prime Ministers Moudud Ahmed, Professor M.A. Matin, and Shah Moazzam Hussain, and Dhaka Municipal Corporation Administrator M.A. Malik also spoke at the meeting. The meeting was rounded off with a session of patriotic songs.

Other political parties also held public meetings and seminars on the Victory Day yesterday. Addressing a rally in the capital, the Awami League president and eight-party alliance chief, Sheikh Hasina, paid tributes to the martyrs of the war of independence. She said one of the fundamental objectives of her party is to reestablish the values of the liberation war by establishing a democratic society based on social justice and fair play.

At another public rally organized by the seven-party alliance, BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia reaffirmed the alliance's stand on national poll under a neutral caretaker government to establish democracy in the country. She said the people are now united and no one can frustrate their movement.

The five-party alliance at a public meeting paid homage to those who have laid down their lives for the liberation of the country. They demanded the release of all detenues [detainees]. The Bangladesh Workers Party at a meeting regretted that although 16 years have elapsed since the independence of Bangladesh, the dreams of the people are yet to be materialized. The six-party alliance in their meeting recalled the sacrifices of martyrs of the liberation for the motherland. In his address, alliance leader Wali Ahad said the objective of the liberation war was to establish a democratically-elected government. The Bangladesh Muslim League-Qamruzzaman held a meeting and a Milad Mehfil [Muslim religious ceremony] on the Victory Day. Speaking on the occasion, the party chief called for upholding the Constitution of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Gana Azadi League called for upholding the spirit of the liberation war and the values of independence. It called for placing national interests above all considerations and forging unity to overcome the current political crisis. The (?23-party) alliance held a symposium with Krishak Sramik Party Chief A.S.M. Sulaiman in the chair. Mr Sulaiman said democracy in the country can function only through elections. The Bangladesh Muslim League-Qader at a seminar regretted that even after 16 years of independence, political rights and democratic values could not be established.

The other parties which held symposia on the Victory Day included the Progressive Nationalist Party, Jukta Front, Jana Dal, Jatiya Gonotantrik Party, Bhasani Biplabi Parishad, Anachar O Drabba Mulla Pratirodh Andolan, and Bangladesh Hindu Oikya Front.

President Gives Concessions to Opposition
BK170320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad of Bangladesh has offered more concessions to the opposition for the coming parliamentary elections. Addressing newsmen at his residence in Dhaka yesterday, he said that he is willing to include two persons nominated by the opposition on the country's Election Commission. He expressed the hope that the opposition would eventually participate in the elections.

Dhaka Announces Reimposed Curfew Hours

BK161554 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The curfew will be reimposed at 1200 tonight and will continue till 0400 tomorrow morning in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Narayanganj. There will be no curfew from 0400 tomorrow morning to 1200 in the night. The industrial areas of Demra, Adamji, Fatullah, and Faujdar Hat will remain outside the purview of curfew.

India

Union Carbide Ordered To Pay Bhopal Victims

BK170805 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The Bhopal district and sessions judge, Mr M.W. Deo, today ordered the Union Carbide Corporation to pay an interim relief of 350 crore rupees to the gas victims. The judge who was hearing the gas tragedy compensation suit ordered that the interim relief amount will have to be deposited within 2 months. The judge said that the distribution of the relief amount will be looked after by Justice P.D. Muley, who has been appointed the gas relief commissioner under the Bhopal Gas Disaster Act.

Gandhi Assesses Talks With Burmese Leaders

BK161615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that India and Burma are to cooperate in the fields of trade, commerce, industry, and culture opening a new era of relationship. He was speaking to newsmen on board the IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft on his way back home after a 2-day good will visit to Burma. Mr Gandhi has since returned to the capital.

The prime minister said both the countries will also extend cooperation in fighting cross border insurgency. They will exchange delegations to explore areas whether to [words indistict] helping hand to each other. He said he exchanged views with the chairman of the Burmese Socialist Program Party, U Ne Win, three times during his 2-day stay in Rangoon.

The prime minister said the tourism in relation to pilgrims also came up for discussion. We have offered to renovate buildings and monuments in Burma, he said. Burma and India will also cooperate in stopping drug trafficking across the border. The visit would bring us closer and would increase interaction between the two countries.

The prime minister said that Burma was not agreeable to join SAARC or any other regional organization. Of the international fora, the Burmese leadership only want to keep their membership of the United Nations.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that other questions discussed with Burmese leadership include Kampuchea, the situation in Southeast Asian region, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, NAM [Nonaligned Movement], and IMF.

Oil Contracts With USSR, Iran, Iraq Finalized

BK170350 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] India has finalized contracts for importing more than 9 million tons of crude and finished products with the Soviet Union, Iran, and Iraq. Disclosing this to newsmen in Bombay yesterday, the director of the Indian Oil Corporation, Mr B.K. Bakshi, said that by the turn of the century, the projected demand of petroleum products in the country would be around 92 million tons. That is, about 105 million tons of refining capacity would be needed to meet the projected demand.

Soviet Special Envoy Petrovskiy Arrives 16 Dec

BK170410 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr V.F. Petrovskiy, arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a 4-day visit to India as a special envoy of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev. He will apprise the Indian leaders of the treaty concluded between Mr Gorbachev and Mr Reagan during their recent summit.

Mr Petrovskiy, during his visit, will call on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh. He will also meet the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon.

MP's Say PRC Warplanes Stationed in Tibet

BK170344 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpt] In the Rajya Sabha yesterday, a Congress-I member, Mr Kapil Verma, urged the government to take cognizance of the Chinese deployment of warplanes in Tibet. Making a special mention, he felt that the deployment is a threat to India's security. [passage omitted]

Chinese Weapon Seized From Punjab 'Terrorist'

BK170346 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, one terrorist was killed in an encounter in village (Khabbe Rajputan) in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, the joint police and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] party at a drain bridge near the village was fired upon when it challenged the suspected terrorist coming from that side. He was killed when the police returned the fire. One Chinese assault rifle, eight live and six empty cartridges were recovered from the killed terrorist.

6 Killed by Terrorists in Punjab 16 Dec

BK161644 Delhi Domeltic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, six persons were killed this morning by terrorists in two incidents in Amritsar District. Terrorists entered into the house of Mr Jagir Singh in village (Vanala) and shot him dead along with his wife, two brothers, and a relative.

In the second incident, one person was shot dead by terrorists in village Khati also in Amritsar District.

Violence Continues in West Bengal's Darjeeling

BK170706 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The West Bengal government has warned the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] that antiterrorist laws will be enforced again if violence continued in the Darjeeling hill district. The district magistrate told our Siliguri correspondent that the state government has given the green signal to the authorities to enforce such laws to contain the violence.

Meanwhile, more violence has been reported from various parts of the district. In Darjeeling, a glasshouse nursery was completely damaged when GNLF activists threw a powerful bomb last night. A tourist office was also damaged in the blast. One PWD [Public Works Department] inspection bungalow was burned down in Kalimpong. Police fired 24 rounds when GNLF activists attacked the State Electricity Board office at Kalimpong. There has been no casualty.

Iran

WIH Warns U.S. Fleet Against Radar Jamming

LD171100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf is jamming the Iranian coastal radar system whenever Iraqi aircraft attack merchant ships and oil tankers in this international waterway.

According to IRNA, the United States has engaged in electronic warfare against Iran in order to protect Iraqi aircraft. The report states that when Iraqi aircaft attacked shipping in the Persian Gulf Tuesday night and Wednesday morning—which resulted in damage to a Cypriot ship—U.S. naval units jammed some of the Iranian coastal radar. This is one in a series of instances in which the United States has resorted to jamming Iranian radar.

The spokesman for the WIH said: This U.S. move is tantamount to that country's participation in Iraqi's war against Iran and as such, it amounts to support for the Iraqi regime.

He said: The personnel of the Iranian radar systems, always on guard, have prepared the necessary projects to confront this electronic warfare by the United States. During the past 2 days Iranian radar personnel have been able to neutralize the efforts of the U.S. forces.

In conclusion, the spokesman warned the United States that Iran will not remain silent in the face of such aggressive acts.

Khamene'i Warns U.S. Against 'Aggressions'

LD170635 Tehran IRNA in English 0629 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday stressed on Iran's policy of "dealing constant blows" on Iraq in the imposed war saying that the Iranian nation are determined to do so.

Khamene'i, addressing a group of visitors and volunteer forces from Varamin, southern Tehran, said that Iran's enemies had not yet realised the depth of people's belief.

He warned the U.S. that if it embarked on an insane measure and commit acts of aggressions against Iranians, it will be slapped on the face by the people the echo of which will make imperialism to shiver.

President Khamene'i, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, told visitors that imperialism is a paper tiger and that its power was much less than what it portrayed by propaganda.

On policy of dealing constant blows in the imposed-war, President Khamene'i said that Muslim Forces by employing their power in battlefronts will deal the severest blows on U.S. interests in the world, and the Persian Gulf in particular.

Majlis Speaker Sends Message to War Seminar

LD161905 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Qom, Dec 16, IRNA—The first-ever seminar to study the legal aspects of war opened in this holy city Wednesday with a message from Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Hojat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The message said that pages of human history have been blackened by the repeated violation of human rights on the part of the enemies of Islam. As an example, it cited the Iraqi aggression on Iran, the Ba'thist regime's use of internationally-banned chemical weapons and its attack on passenger planes and commercial ships.

The spirit of bravery shown by Iran's Muslim combatants coupled with their utmost restraint from over reacting during reprisal measures against the enemy's acts of mischiefs, occupy a glowing place in human history and have helped expose the enemy's ugly face and hypocricy of its so-called human rights slogans, it said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message said that at this crucial juncture when the Islamic Republic is on the brink of an ultimate victory over the enemy, thanks to Muslim combatants' valour, such a seminar in fact rings a warning to the so-called international human rights organizations not to share the arrogant powers' scandal by keeping silent on Iraqi crimes.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mesbah, a professor of the Qom theological school addressed the audience, criticizing the United Nations for being subservient the arrogant powers.

Arrogant powers have never allowed the U.N. to make a decision in the interests of oppressed nations, but have always strived to ensure the realizing of their illegitimate goals by exerting pressure on the organization, he said.

Mesbah said that such organizations aim at deceiving world public opinion and noted that if a famine-stricken country like Ethiopia is sometimes rendered help, this help is of course not for any humanitarian measures but full of political implications.

Another prominent professor at the Qom theological school Hojat ol-Eslam Naser Makarem Shirazi was the next speaker at the seminar. He explained the magnitudes of the July 31 Mecca massacre of pilgrims by the Saudi regime, calling for the administration of the two sanctuaries in Mecca and Al-Madinah by a panel of prominent Muslim ulema from around the world.

Prime Minister on War, Relations With USSR
LD171014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 330 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Mir Hoseyn Musavi gave an interview to the famous Pakistani journalist, Mushawar Hussain, in which he commented on the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the rest of the world, the situation in the Persian Gulf, the role of international organizations, and other issues related to Iran. The interview took place when the Pakistani journalist was in Tehran for the global conference on the sanctitity and security of the divine sanctuaries.

Commenting on the recent Arab summit in Amman and the role played by Arab reactionaries in supporting the regime ruling over Iraq, Mr Musavi said: In our opinion, the Amman summit was a conference attended by reactionary Arab leaders. It is natural to see such leaders obsessed with racism. The position taken at this summit might have a strong influence on the possible separation of the Arabs from 1 billion world Muslims. It has been proved today that the factor of nationalism cannot bring about justice.

In reply to a question from the Pakistani correspondent on Iran's relations with Syria and Libya, the prime minister said: We have had good relations with Libya and Syria in recent years. These relations have been instrumental in thwarting the propaganda efforts of the Ba'thist-Saddamist regime regarding the Arab versus Persian nature of the war. These two countries have adopted clear positions against Zionism, which have been close to our positions on this matter. After the Amman summit, Syria informed us that it has not changed its position to maintain good relations with Iran. Therefore, we trust Syria.

In reply to another question on relations between the two neighboring countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, he said: The fact that our relations with the Soviet Union have improved is based on the present circumstances. The Soviet Union has realistic views on the region's situation. In addition, the two countries have favorable geographical and historic grounds and past relations. [sentence as heard]

In the same connection, the prime minister added: When the United States endangers our waterways in the Persian Gulf, we have to seek other routes. These factors are the motive behind the mutual visits and the expansion of relations between the two countries. In addition, the Soviet Union opposes the increasing presence of the military forces of the United States and of its allies in the Persian Gulf. The United States sinks our ships and attacks our oil platforms. We think this Soviet policy is realistic, and thanks to this policy, our political and economic relations are expanding.

He also pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran persists in [words indistinct] principles toward the issue of Afghanistan. Of course, these issues can be discussed more fully by increasing contacts.

In reply to another question on Iran-USSR relations, Mr Musavi said: Bilateral relations have been signed [as heard] with the Soviet Union. At present we do not have any defense treaty with that country. However, we have reached an agreement with the USSR on shipping in the Caspian Sea. We could not reach any agreement with the USSR for decades.

Concerning the hostile approach of the U.S. Government toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, he pointed out: Up to now the United States has attacked and sunk billions of dollars of our people's wealth, in the form of goods. Moreover, we are witnessing the worst sort of U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf. Under such circumstances, how can we envisage what form our future relations with the United States will take?

The prime minister stressed: Our relations with the countries of the world are based on mutual understanding. For instance, we do not have an equal level of diplomatic or economic relations with all European states.

As for Iran-Japan relations, he said: During the past few years our relations have been satisfactory. I told the ambassador of Japan recently that an agreement should

be reached whereby the two countries' good relations would not be influenced by U.S. policy and provocations. The United States should not dominate the two countries' commercial ties.

In another part of the interview granted to the Pakistani correspondent, Mushawar Hussain, the prime minister spoke on the role of international forums, including the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations, in ending the war and on how far their positions are from existing realities.

About the war with the Iraqi regime and the future of the imposed war, he said: We fight on the basis of our capability and we are trying not to ignore our principles. We do not want to see the war spread at all. We want to have good relations with all our neighbors. Our fine relations with Turkey and Pakistan are examples.

The prime minister went on: At the same time, we will respond to any pressure imposed upon us. For instance, we have said that it would not be in Kuwait's interest to invite the U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf. We said we could have close and friendly relations with Kuwait. However, by dragging the United States into the region, Kuwait is now vulnerable. We cannot remain silent in the face of these actions.

Also on this issue, he said: We have the longest coastline in the Persian Gulf. Our people are also ready for combat and confrontation. We have learned how to use our resources economically. The people's enthusiasm for participating in the war shows the high morale of our nation. We believe that all this pressure comes from the United States, and our people are ready to confront these acts of adventurism.

Velayati Addresses Envoys on Palestinian Unrest

LD161830 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today invited ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions of Muslim states in Tehran to the Foreign Ministry, to address them on the ongoing uprising of Palestinian Muslims in occupied lands.

Velayati drew attention to the significance of holy Qods, the first qibla [reference to sacred mosque] of the Muslims, presently under Zionist occupation and said there is not a single Muslim who does not attach importance to the sacred cause of Palestine and "the oppression and crimes inflicted by the Zionist usurpers on the tyrannized Palestinian Muslims."

"But what is unfortunately more regrettable is the (Muslims') indifference to this question" said the Iranian foreign minister. The Amman Arab summit and its reconciliatory move towards the Zionist entity are responsible for the "recent massacre of Palestinian men, women and children in occupied territories." he added.

Velayati questioned Muslim countries' inaction to the issue doubting whether there exists any conviction in the struggle against the Zionists. "Why should the treason of some regional puppets and pawns dependent on the West be kept as a secret," he asked.

The foreign minister, addressing himself to those Arab reactionaries who wishfully dream of a compromise with the Qods occupying regime, castigated their conspiracies to decieve Palestinians and other Muslims. They are trying to frighten regional peoples of "unreal dangers cooked up by the U.S. and Zionist occupiers", he added.

Velayati described the current events in Gaza and the West Bank as "the epic of martyrdom and self-sacrifice" of Palestinian Muslims who "single-handedly and away from compromising conspiracies of some corrupt leaders of Palestine, and only inspired by inner Islamic incentives have risen up against a regime fully armed to the teeth."

He cautioned the diplomatic audience of Zionist plots which, backed by the U.S. and its allies, are bent upon humiliating and subjugating Muslims.

The Zionist regime seeks nothing but aggression and expansion, said Velayati adding, it has violated the most basic and universally recognized humanitarian principles and regulations." [no opening quotation marks as received] The Zionists have savagely attacked women, old men and children alike, even patients at hospitals, noted Velayati.

The Zionists dream of extending their hegemony over the Muslim lands "from the Nile to the Euphrates" he added.

The Iranian foreign minister reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's all-out support for the struggles of Palestinian Muslims in occupied lands and vowed to devote all capabilities to the advancement of their sacred cause.

"Iran feels duty bound to invite all Islamic, Arab and non-aligned countries and Muslims throughout the world to embark on an all-out and comprehensive struggle aimed at uprooting this cancerous tumor," concluded Velayati.

Larijani on Islamic Revolution in Iraq

LD170606 Tehran IRAN in English 0559 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Esfahan, Dec. 17, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani said here Wednesday that Iran's war strategy is to repel and uproot aggression, and help materialise an Islamic revolution in Iraq.

Speaking in a gathering of students at Esfahan University, Larijani stressed that to achieve final victory, all potentials should be employed.

As a prime objective, he added, Iranians are determined to overthrow the aggressor Iraqi regime and uproot aggression in the region.

On his recent talks with U.N. secretary general, Larijani said the talks were aimed at further activating the international arena.

In the same manner that the U.S. withdrew from UNESCO, efforts should be made to make Washington leave the U.N. and turn the organisation into a scene for the activities of the oppressed nations, Larijani said.

Velayati Receives Departing Italian Envoy

LD162026 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Outgoing Italian Ambassador to Iran Giuseppe Balducci met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday, where he announced Italy's willingness to expand and consolidate its ties with the Islamic Republic.

In response, Velayati wished success for Balducci and called for expansion of Tehran-Rome ties and cooperation in international issues.

UN Official, Mines Minister Discuss Ties

NC151021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The representative of the United Nations Development Program [UNDP] in Iran met with Mr Ayatollahi, minister of mines and metals, yesterday and described the Islamic Republic's cooperation with international organizations as good and extensive. He also emphasized the need to expand this cooperation. The UNDP representative pointed out that with its very experienced experts in the field of explorations, the Ministry of Mines and Metals can have extensive cooperation with the UNDP. He noted that in addition to its past cooperation, the UNDP wants to participate in the Islamic Republic's future projects.

For his part, Mr Ayatollahi said that with regard to the cooperation with developing countries, great attention should be given to their natural resources so that their mining, industrial, and agricultural potential can be more effectively utilized. He added that Iran has had various projects with the UNDP and pointed out that in view of our country's rich God-given resources, the extent cooperation definitely will not be limited. The minister of mines and metals added: Iran can cooperate with the UNDP in many fields and particularly in geology, explorations, and ferrous and nonferrous mining industries, as well as in education and in the exchange of technology.

Cabinet Hears Reports on OPEC, West Bank, PRC

LD161233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that today the Cabinet reviewed and discussed the lastest report on the protest and uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine in the occupied territories. Some of them have been martyred or wounded as a result of the barbaric actions by the officers of the Jerusalem occupying regime. The government, while declaring support for this Islamic revolutionary movement, paid tribute to the martyrs of this popular uprising and expressed sympathy with their families.

In this session, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh presented a report to the Cabinet on the recent OPEC oil ministers' conference. The oil minister explained how some OPEC members had reached agreement before the conference began, a step that disrupted the economic-technical framework of the conference. He also briefed the Cabinet on the efforts of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to meet present day economic and international requirements, to control production, to maintain the oil market demand, and to increase the oil price base rate, which was confirmed by the OPEC experts in view of the fall in the value of the dollar and global inflation.

The oil minister expressed regret at the lack of understanding among some members and their tendency to coordinate with foreign powers in order to disrupt the climate of logic and understanding in the conference in favor of the Iraqi regime. The oil minister expressed hope that OPEC unity will be preserved, thanks to the efforts and good intentions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and cooperation among other members. He added: We hope to reach better and more logical agreements.

Mr Namdar-Zanganeh, the construction jihad minister, who led a delegation to China, presented a report to the Cabinet on his visit. The report described the talks he held and the agreements reached with Chinese authorities about exchanging the two countries' information and experience in the spheres of rural industries, irrigation, farming, fisheries, and rural development. He also stressed the positive outcome of his talks with China's political officials on the imposed war, UN Resolution 598, the need for the United States to withdraw from the Persian Gulf region, and the expansion of the two countries' diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties.

During the session a report was presented to the Cabinet by the IRGC military industries organization on the organization's electronics and missile manufacturing achievements. A film demonstrating successful testing of some of these products was shown to the Cabinet.

At the conclusion of this session Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, in an interview, condemned the repressive measures of the occupiers of Palestine against

the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said: The Muslim people have found their way now and by relying on Islam, they will continue their freedom-seeking struggle until victory. Mr Musavi added: This popular uprising, in its extent and dimension, is particularly important because it is taking place at a time when the reactionary Arab leaders, during the shameful Amman summit, unanimously joined the ranks of the Camp David signatories and attempted to distract the attention of Muslims from the Zionist enemy to Islamic Iran. The Muslim people, in thier uprising in the Palestinian camps, have proved that the main enemy is the regime occupying Jerusalem. If the kings, rulers, and Arab amirs wish to compromise with the regine occupying Jerusalem, the people will go to war against the enemy with just their bare hands and will bring the enemy to his knees.

The prime minister stressed: This movement exposes those who have stolen the names of Palestine resistance and shows that the only solution to the problem of Palestine is through uncompromising confrontation against the regime occupying and against the United States.

Envoy to Moscow Sees Improving USSR Ties

PM141401 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
3 Dec 87 p 18

[Interview with Naser Nobari-Heyrani, ambassador to the Soviet Union, by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 2 December]

[Text] [KEYHAN] Could you analyze the Soviet response to the crisis in the Persian Gulf?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The Americans and other NATO forces are present in the Persian Gulf in an unprecedented manner. It is normal for this increase in military forces and the increased presence and influence of imperialism to interest the Soviets.

[KEYHAN] How does the Soviet Union view the United States' presence in the Persian Gulf?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The Soviets want to state that they do not approve of a U.S. and NATO military presence in the Persian Gulf. They are willing to cooperate in order to get the Americans out of the Persian Gulf.

[KEYHAN] Why do the Soviets agree to a Western presence under UN auspices?

[Nobari-Heyrani] At present, what matters to the Soviets is that the United States should not be the only country there. They want to see a lessening of the American role in whatever way possible. Meanwhile, they want a role for themselves.

[KEYHAN] Has there been a change in the Soviet attitude to Iraq? If so, why?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The Iraqi regime is sinking deeper and deeper into the arms of the United States and the West day by day, so much so that Baghdad has become a main axis for U.S. Middle East policies. Existing trends show that the Soviets are paying close attention to this.

[KEYHAN] How much progress is likely in terms of political and economic relations between Iran and the Soviet Union? Is this progress simply a reaction or part of planned program?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The Soviet Union and Iran share a long border and each has special capabilities useful to the other. In the past the West destroyed or held back maximum use of this potential. Now that this destructive element has been removed, serious and profound steps are being planned by both sides. Both countries' views with regard to regional and international issues are shaped in terms of the strategic values in their own relations. This means that economic relations are strong and the trend in progress does not depend on present conditions. Of course, it is clear that the present circumstances have given an urgency to this trend.

[KEYHAN] What stage has the export of natural gas to the Soviet Union reached? What is the Soviet view with regard to shipping Iranian oil to the Black Sea coast?

[Nobari-Heyrani] In accordance with agreements, both these issues are being dealt with by the experts so that actions can be taken based on both countries' capabilities.

[KEYHAN] What kind of dimension will the Iranian Majlis speaker's visit to the Soviet Union have?

[Nobari-Heyrani] A trip at the leadership level has great importance because such a trip will give the opportunity for direct talks between leaders of the two countries. The outcome of such a meeting could be long-lasting in terms of the relations between the two nations. In practical terms, such a meeting would be a turning point not only in bilateral relations but also in terms of the entire region's issues and relations.

[KEYHAN] Following the relative improvement in relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, some have warned about such relations. They say that Europe and the United States could simply be replaced by the Soviet Union. How do you feel about this?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The basis for improving relations between Iran and the Soviet Union is independent of other issues. These relations depend on the two countries' stable conditions regionally and in world-wide. In general, we do not link our improving relations with the Soviets to our ties with Europe or the United States. Basically, a thesis of replacement is not what we seek, because we strongly favor safeguarding our independence—one of the Islamic Revolution's most important achievements. We are not about to start the type of

oppressive relations that existed under the old regime, either with the Soviet Union, or with Europe, or with the United States. We do not want the Soviet Union or Europe to hold a position similar to what the United States held before.

The mechanism of establishing relations with other countries is based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs. We establish and expand our ties with other countries in accordance with their willingness to observe these principles.

[KEYHAN] How do you view the recent differences between the United States and China and their effects on Sino-Soviet relations and anticolonialist forces in general?

[Nobari-Heyrani] As far as we are concerned, the closer together the world's anti-imperialist forces come, the more positive are the effect on controlling the Americans' world-devouring attitudes.

[KEYHAN] How do you view the plan to impose an arms embargo on Iran—a plan that is being pursued in the Security Council by the United States?

[Nobari-Heyrani] In reality, the Americans are following an overall program to drag the Islamic Republic of Iran into a compromise and to come closer to the Islamic Republic. Up until last year, they were following this program through different channels. They tried, in their discussions with various countries such as the Soviet Union, China, and even their own allies, to apply pressure on them to impose an arms embargo on Iran. In this regard, the Americans sent Iraqis and other reactionary Arabs everywhere to increase this pressure.

Their main aim was to get closer to Iran, pursuing the application of this pressure within the framework of being able to provide Iran's arms needs. It was on the basis of this theory that they sent McFarlane to Iran. Coinciding with their talks with the Soviets and Chinese and others about an arms embargo against Iran, they sent McFarlane to Iran with weapons. Their main point was that, if Iran improved its ties with the United States and if it understood America's interests in the region to a certain extent, the Americans would then help Iran to defeat Iraq and the Saddam regime.

Following the failure of McFarlane's mission and the disaster that it incurred for the U.S. Administration, they thought about changing their policies. Now they are following the same weapons embargo theme in the UN Security Council. They are trying to force various countries of the world, through tricks and pressures, to adopt the American program so that the United States can ultimately control the situation in this region.

[KEYHAN] Two days ago Tariq al-'Aziz clearly and sharply criticized the Soviets for not accepting the economic sanctions package against Iran. How do you feel about this?

[Nobari-Heyrani] As I said, the Americans are trying to apply pressure in order to force all countries to put Iran in a corner. Then, the only option for Iran would be to turn to United States itself. So, it is clear to everyone that this is a U.S. plan and that, if it successfully convinces other countries, it will show that it is the boss in this region. Americans will show the world that their will has prevailed; for the Soviets and the Chinese and other countries, this would be a major weakness.

The Americans are using every method possible to convince the Soviets. Iraq and other reactionary states in the region, as the only sources of stability for the United States, are being coerced by the United States to put pressure on the Soviets and others. The Iraqis seem to have concluded that, if the Americans become preeminent in the region and if Iran compromises with the United States, their problems will be solved and they will be saved.

I must add at this point that in our meetings with Soviet leaders we have expressed our pleasure at their independent position in this regard. We hope they continue to withstand U.S. pressure and do not accept this arms boycott, so that they will not be drawn under the U.S. umbrella.

[KEYHAN] If the arms boycott plan were carried out, what would be the situation?

[Nobari-Heyrani] First of all, we would not pin any hopes on international organizations and would then concentrate all our efforts on military methods. Second, if the arms boycott were implemented, it would become clear that the United States had taken over the leadership of the Security Council member countries. This would indeed be a bitter truth for the world.

Of course, in practical terms this decision would not change anything, because we manufacture most of our weapons needs at home and the rest is easily obtainable on the free market. The interesting thing which shows the futility of this resolution is that for some time now all the Security Council members have individually announced that they are not selling Iran any kind of weapons. The only difference is that they have not announced this position in a unified manner. Just as their official but individual announcements have so far had no effect, their unified announcement will not have any effect either, in practical terms. At present, with the mass mobilization that we have undertaken, the Americans' presumptions have all fallen apart.

[KEYHAN] What position have the Soviets taken with regard to the Americans' pouring troops into the Persian Gulf?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The Soviet position has been reflected in the official Soviet Government statement of 3 July condemning the presence of all foreign troops, and this is something that we too welcomed.

[KEYHAN] Does the Soviet Union have a plan to get rid of the Americans in the Persian Gulf?

[Nobari-Heyrani] They have put forward several plans, and at present talks between us on this matter continue.

[KEYHAN] Do you believe the Security Council is capable of bringing the war to an end?

[Nobari-Heyrani] From the beginning of the war our position has been clear, stable, and just. If they condemn Iraq as the instigator and then punish it, the question of the war will be solved. Of course, I must stress the point that international organizations have shown they lack the power to solve such basic and important issues. It is possible that, by wasting time, they want us to wait longer then necessary. We ourselves must achieve our rights on the fronts, with strength.

[KEYHAN] Let us return to economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iran. Could you please explain what agreements have been reached with regard to cooperation between the two countries for oil exploration in the Caspian Sea?

[Nobari-Heyrani] Oil drilling in the Caspian has long been one of Iran's objectives, but this idea has been pursued seriously since the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Oil exploration in the Caspian Sea needed equipment, some of which could be obtained from the Soviet Union. They agreed to supply this equipment and, with this provision, more Iranian technicians have begun preliminary work for oil drilling. The production of oil from the Caspian really is a major and valuable achievement, especially for our oil industry.

The agreement reached during a recent trip to Moscow by our oil minister specifies that we supply 100,000 barrels of oil a day by pipeline from the south of our country to the Caspian coast . From there, Soviet tankers will transport the crude to the Baku refinery. We will then receive from the Soviets in return petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel, and so on, equal to the amount of crude that we delivered. This will be shipped across the Caspian and then sent by rail to Jolfa.

[KEYHAN] What sort of progress has been made with regard to transport and transit between the two countries?

[Nobari-Heyrani] In recent days, a new protocol has been signed in Tehran between the two countries' Ministries of Roads and Transportation. This indicates substantial growth and expansion in the routes linking the two countries and the volume of goods in transit between the two nations.

This agreement specifies that the Islamic Republic of Iran may sail two cargo ships through the Black Sea and through Soviet waters to the Caspian. These two ships will carry loads between Baku and Anzali on the Iranian side. Previously, goods have been carried only by Soviet ships between the two ports. Under the agreement, from now on shipping in the Caspian will be a joint venture and Iranian ships will share the transportation of goods across the Caspian with Soviet ships.

There has been another agreement with regard to activating the customs post at Sarakhs and building a railroad through the eastern parts of the country. When this railroad is completed, the port of Sarakhs in the north will be linked with Bandar-e 'Abbas in the south—which will have a beneficial impact on the economic situation in those areas. As far as this project is concerned, it is planned that Soviet equipment will be used and that Iranian technicians will implement this major project.

Mobilization Chief Rahmani on Volunteers

LD161054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Interview with Mr Rahmani, official in charge of the IRGC mobilization unit, by unidentified Tehran radio correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Please tell us about the latest information concerning the plan for processing and dispatching volunteers to the fronts.

[Rahmani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During these 10 days set aside for registration and dispatch to the fronts, I should say that registration has taken place throughout the country and is still continuing. The timeframe has also been followed in most of our provinces. I should also explain that the mobilization forces throughout the country that want to be sent to the fronts again should get in touch with the mobilization resistance units so that their processing and participation can be clarified, in the same way that processing for others has been announced. The second group of mobilization forces, who have received their general training but who have not yet been sent to the fronts, should report to mobilization centers and mobilization resistance units throughout the country, so that their phasing in also may be made clear. In fact, they should report to the centers set aside for phasing in mobilization bases and regions throughout the country. From among those who report, those who should be sent to the fronts will be sent on the basis of the timeframe

that will be announced. Moreover, those who will receive training before dispatch to the fronts will register their names during these 10 days.

In view of the limitations we have for training those who will be dispatched to the fronts—fortunately, all the barracks of the mobilization currently are filled with trained forces—those who wish to receive training will report to the barracks so that the time of their future training courses can be announced.

In addition to all the mobilization brothers and all other individuals who have not received training, but who have registered their names and taken part in the phasing program, there are also a number of esteemed and beloved clergymen. Those members of the esteemed clergy who are in missionary groups will register at those centers already named for dispatch for missionary work. The combat groups that have not yet been trained should, like the rest of the brothers, report to the mobilization registration centers and become part of the clerical divisions until they have received their combat training. Also, the specialist forces throughout the country who are waiting for their centers to be announced—by specialist forces, I mean the laborers, government employees, and those who have some specialty and volunteer to be sent to the fronts—should report to those mobilization centers set up for specialist forces in the IRGC mobilization headquarters.

If there are mobilization centers in their places of work, they should go to those centers in order to be included in the phased plan so that when the time for the recall arrives, they can take part in the mobilization. As far as the students are concerned, the same applies. Those students who volunteer and are among the 6-month ones [as heard] will register through the support headquarters, the war headquarters of the universities. Of course, the 6 months will be counted as part of their service. Other students who wish to go to the battlefronts in the form of mobilization forces should, like other mobilization volunteers, report to the mobilization resistance centers, register, and express their readiness. The exact time for their dispatch will be announced by those centers. As for doctors and other experts in the health field—lab technicians and other experts in various medical fields whose presence at the fronts is useful and effective—they should also report to various dispatch centers set up in the Health Ministry where they will be advised on what to do.

At the end of these 10 days—from 26 December to 4 January—there will be the 10 days of training and dispatch for training. From 26 December to 4 January, all those who have not yet been trained should register. They will be allocated training time on the basis of the capacity and facilities of training centers and barracks. After their processing is completed, they will be sent to the training centers as battalions set up in various mobilization barracks for training for dispatch to the fronts. Therefore, the second 10 days is the period for registeration for being sent to training centers in the form of training battalions.

482 Iraqi POW's Released, Request Asylum

LD161229 Tehran IRNA in English 1154 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Four hundred eighty-two Iraqi prisoners of war took asylum in the Islamic Republic of Iran Wednesday after being set free here.

The released Iraqi POWS wearing basij [mobilization] headbands, carrying colorful banners and singing slogans such as 'down with Saddam (Husayn)', War, war till victory of Islam' called on Iranian authorities to let them go to the Iraqi-imposed war fronts.

"We have become aware of our responsiblity, will accept nothing but an Islamic system and are ready to go to fronts and get martyred for Islam" said one of the released POWS on behalf of the others.

Head of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim, head of the commission in charge of the POWs affairs Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran and a number of Iranian military and civilian officials also attended the meeting.

Nazaran said that the presence of the released Iraqi POWs proves the success of Iranian officials efforts from the begining to introduce genuine Islam to Iraqi POWs.

Today, he said, Islam is endangered by certain leaders of Muslim states, adding that despite the present suppression of Palestinian Muslims, it is now the very Islam which is capable of liberating the Islamic lands in the occupied Palestine.

He hoped that the Iraqi Mulsims along with their Iranian brothers would fight against the Zionist occupiers to liberate the occupied Islamic lands.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim addressing the released POWs conveyed Imam Khomeyni's greeting to them and quoted Imam as saying that "all Iraqi POWs are guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran is their country."

Leaving behind a great deal of problems in the way of Iraqi nation, "we are now entering a new phase and are duty-bound to settle all these difficulties in order to free the oppressed people of Iraq" said Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim.

SAIRI head, pointing to the subservience of reactionary Arab leaders, said that they are the worst and have joined hands against Islam and their own Muslim peoples to serve their masters and surrender to the Zionist regime.

On the recent uprising of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied lands he said that it was a slap on the face of all reactionary Arab leaders who arranged the return of Egyptian regime to Arab League and acceptance of the Zionist regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim considered the presence of the U.S. fleets in the Persian Gulf as a measure to save the Baghdad shaky regime.

Tehran Cites REUTER on Greek Tanker Attack

LD161913 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] REUTER, quoting shipping sources, reported that a gunboat attacked a Greek tanker this morning in the southern Persian Gulf and set it on fire. The attack did not result in any casualties. The 29,990 metric ton tanker "World Produce" was attacked near Ra's al-Khaymah at the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,052

LD161740 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Iranian warplanes carried out their reconnaissance missions over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in line with international regulations, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique Number 3052 of the Joint Staff Command added that Iranian naval forces Tuesday checked activities of an Iraqi vessel near Khawr 'Abdallah. The Navy also intercepted a foreign cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed it to proceed since it had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

Exchange of artillery fire sporadically raged on all the fronts over Tuesday and Wednesday between Muslim combatants and enemy forces with the Iranian combatants holding the upper hand. Muslim combatants continued strengthening their positions, despatching patrol units, laying barricades and mine fields in the war fronts.

In Sumar and Chazabeh, some Iraqi patrol units were spotted and shelled by Muslim combatants. The Iraqi units were forced to flee sustaining heavy casualties.

Iraqi forces sustained damage in Panjwin operational region by the precise fire of the Iranian combatants.

Activities and movements of Iraqi armoured units were checked or subjected to fire of the Muslim combatants in Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, Eynkhosh and Nahr 'Anbar regions. Some Iraqi tanks were destroyed or damaged and their activities disrupted in the said regions.

In operational region opposite Mehran, movement of an Iraqi column backed by copters was subjected to long-range artillery fire of the Muslim combatants. The Iraqi column incurred substantial damage and its movement was halted, it concluded.

Communique No 3,053

LD171631 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Iran's Navy released on Wednesday two impounded cargo ships from a southern port where they had been led on December 9 and 16 respectively for thorough inspection, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 3053rd Joint Staff Communique said that naval gunboats also intercepted and searched 17 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The airforce successfully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, in line with international regulations to monitor the positions of foreign ships.

Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Wednesday, killing 10 Ba'thist soldiers in a southern war theater and destroying vast parts of enemy fortifications on other battlefields.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least 10 enemy gun emplacements and a tanker truck were set ablaze in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces Wednesday.

An Iraqi patrol convoy, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Helaleh, western sector Wednesday, sustained several casualties and was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

Heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim forces prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up embankments or repairing their barbed-wire fences in areas overlooking Mehran, Helaleh, Yebis, Chazabeh and west of Jofeyr Wednesday, inflicting substantial losses on enemy troops.

Iraqi forces incurred several casualties and losses and movement of enemy motirized columns was halted on the Jassan-Badra, Badra-Zurbatiyah and Zobeydah-Tib axes, northwestern and southern sectors, by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

In Helaleh, Panjwin, Nahr 'Anbar and Eynkhosh war theaters, Iranian combatants responded to Iraqi tank fire wednesday, inflicting heavy losses on several enemy tanks and silencing their fire, concluded the communique.

IRGC, Kurds Destroy Iraqi Pylons

LD171059 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Special airborne forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Peshmergas of Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) destroyed all enemy bases on Tajika [placename as received] Heights around Segrin [placename as received] in Dahuk Province, over the past few days, killing of wounding 70 Iraqi Ba'thists.

!RGC Central Headquarters in a statement issued here Thursday said the Peshmergas ambushed an Iraqi Ba'thist convoy in Nahr Diyalah region, Irbil Province, setting ablace a vehicle and killing several enemy men. An assortment of weapons and ammunition was also seized intact.

Meanwhile, forces of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) destroyed five power pylons along Dukan-Raniyah road and also captured a number of enemy troops in Qaragol [placename as received] village of Darbandikhan [placename as received] last week.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Israeli 'Atrocities,' Summit

BK161734 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Pakistan has expressed profound sense of shock and distress over the atrocities committed by the Israeli forces in the occupied Arab territory. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that reports received over the last week pointed [words indistinct] once again let loose on the innocent Palestinian people. He pointed out that the government and the people of Pakistan have always condemned such inhuman atrocities.

Referring to the recent U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington, the spokesman said the American Government has provided to Pakistan information on the highlights of the discussion on the Afghanistan problem between President Reagan and the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev. He said both the leaders discussed the problems touching on all the issues covering the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, cease-fire, noninterference, and future government of an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan. The Soviet ambassador had also briefed the Pakistani officials on the summit and Moscow's position on the outstanding issue.

The spokesman said over the last year the Soviet leadership gave a number of statements which had contributed to the creation of an atmosphere of optimism which should now be (?turned) into reality.

Sri Lanka

Minister Denies Reports of Food Shortages

BK170525 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0451 GMT 17 Dec 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Sri Lankan Minister of Agriculture Research and Food D.B. Wijetunge told LANKA PUWATH that there was no shortage of food in the island's northern and eastern provinces.

He said that there were no complaints from the two provinces about any shortage of food.

Minister Wijetunge further said that there was always a buffer stock in Jaffna and Batticaloa which was adequate for two months.

However, food supplies to these two provinces were being sent continuously to meet the requirements.

Asked whether the Indian troops in Sri Lanka were consuming the food sent to these two provinces, the minister said his information was that they were being fed and looked after by the Government of India.

The Indian Government was spending rupees thirty million a day for this purpose, he added.

28 Die in Violent Incidents in North, East

BK161638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 28 persons were killed in the last 36 hours in separate violent incidents in the north and east of the country. In Polonnaruwa district, LTTE men attacked two neighboring villages early this morning and shot dead 10 people, including 4 children. Most of them were Sinhalese and Muslims. In Mullaitivu District, five Peacekeeping Force [PKF] soldiers and six LTTE men were killed in an exchange of fire yesterday.

In Batticaloa, LTTE men killed six Tamil civilians, including the principal of a school, in Palugamam. The LTTE had charged these civilians of providing information to the peacekeeping force. In Mannar District, the LTTE men attacked a Muslim village at Cheddikulam last evening killing one person.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that the PKF recovered the largest single cache of arms in a 1-day search in Kilinochchi yesterday. The arms recovered from a ground level water tank and a house included 30,000 rounds of ammunition. Another 30,000 rounds of ammunition and 9 automatic rifles were recovered from a temple at (Kavecherri) in Jaffna Peninsula.

In another incident northeast of Kankesanthurai, a boat carrying four LTTE personnel was seized.

Meanwhile, relief measures are continuing in full swing. Power supply has been provided for 12 hours daily throughout the Jaffna Peninsula from the Kandy grid. Jaffna and six other hospitals are functioning, with Red Cross continuing to provide medical aid.

IPKF Seizes LTTE Ammunition, Explosives

BK171011 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0951 GMT 17 Dec 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 17 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) acting on information given by the public captured nearly 40,000 rounds of ammunition, in addition to large quantities of TNT high explosives from the LTTE at Jaffna yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

Indian troops had also seized four printing presses belonging to the LTTE.

Eight LTTE terrorists, four men and four women, were apprehended at Alaveddy, about 23 kilometres north of Jaffna town.

Official sources said that on raids on LTTE ammunition dumps at Chunnakam, about 10 kilometres northeast of Jaffna town on the A9 highway, and Puttur about 19 kilometres to the northeast, the IPKF captured 14,800 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 17,000 rounds of 5.56, 1,700 rounds 5.56 tracer, 2,700 rounds of 7.62, 1,329 .50 rounds, 1,000 rounds 9mm cartridges, 1,500 rounds of other types of ammunition, electric detonators and TNT high explosives.

At Chavakachcheri, 8 kilometres southeast of Jaffna town, Indian troops seized 6 AK-47 and 2 G3 rifles and one 60 mm sub-machine gun.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH all these successful raids on the LTTE followed tip offs given by the public.